

## Feature

How classroom seating affects your health • 24



## Opinion



Kony campaign lacks substance • 11

## Sports

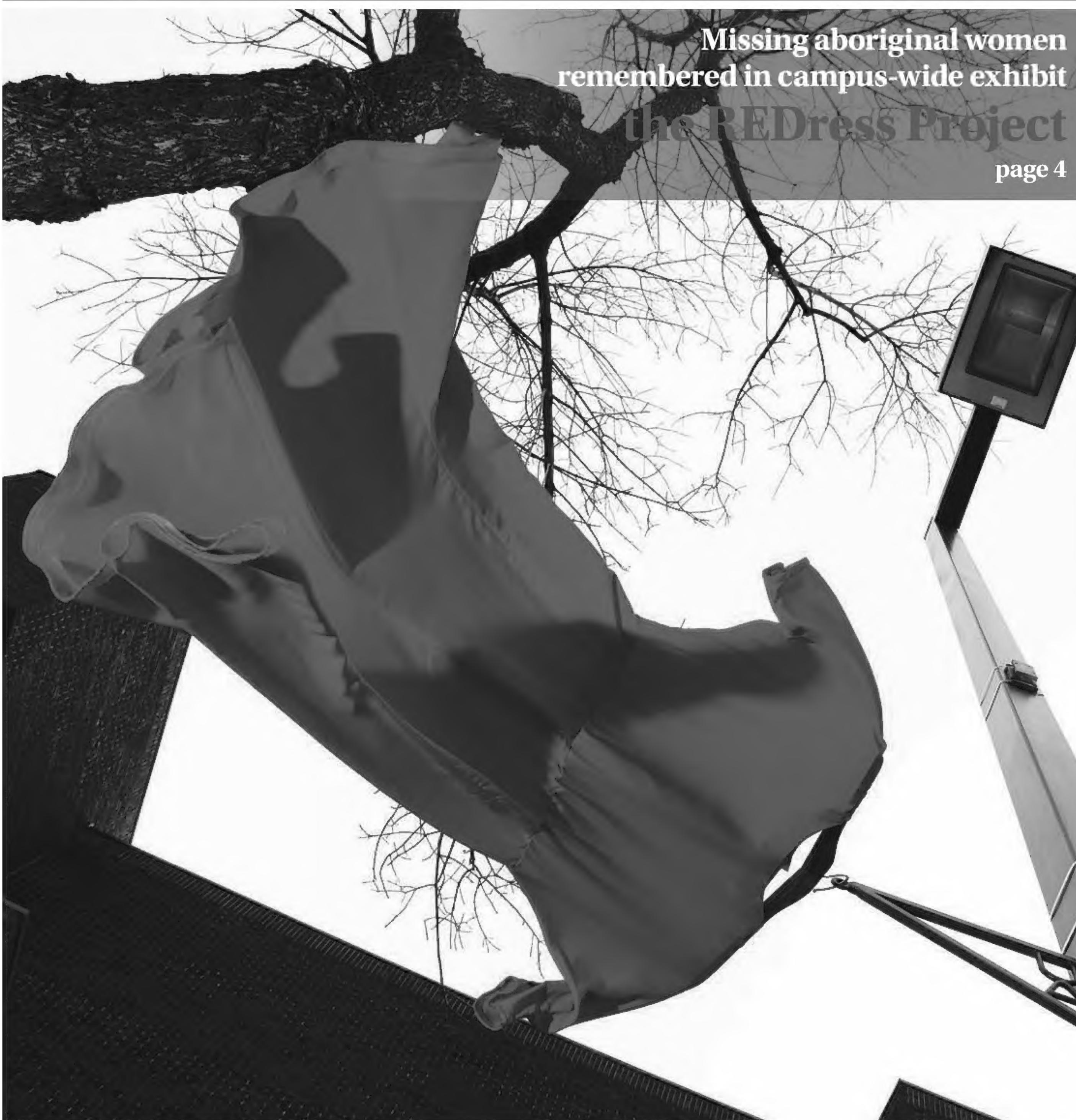


Hoop Bears snag silver at nationals • 19

March 14th, 2012 • Issue No. 25 • Volume 102

# THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



AMIRALI SHARIFI

### BUDGET CUTS

## Faculty cuts move forward

April Hudson

STAFF REPORTER • @APRIL\_HUDSON

Faculties across the University of Alberta are still struggling to make cuts after the provincial government announced a three-year funding cycle of two per cent increases to the university's budget.

The university, which required a four per cent annual increase to their budget in order to break even, informed faculties that they would still be going ahead with two per cent budget reallocations across the board. The reallocations will facilitate a negotiated salary increase for staff, at a cost to the operating budgets of individual faculties.

“We have to do our best to keep the ship floating.”

GREGORY TAYLOR  
DEAN OF SCIENCE

“We were asked to return two per cent of our base budget back to the university in order to cope with the current fiscal situation, and we are in the process of analyzing the information coming in from the departments,” said Gregory Taylor, dean of science.

“There are a few ways we can (meet) these cuts — when we have vacancies, we can give those up and not choose to fill the positions with new professors. We have to do our best to keep the ship floating.”

This is not the first year he has had to look at budget reallocations. The Faculty of Science has already been affected by cuts, Taylor said.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET • PAGE 3

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

## Science students concerned over “Plagiarism Checker”

Jonathan Faerber

NEWS STAFF • @JONFAERBER

Text-matching technology is currently under scrutiny at the University of Alberta, with the Department of Biological Sciences' plagiarism checker the latest subject in a long discussion about academic integrity on campus.

The aptly branded “Plagiarism Checker” — a mandatory text-matching tool used by the biological sciences department since September — is inciting controversy after the department’s decision to go ahead with the technology last year left students unhappy with the

lack of communication about the service.

The department’s plagiarism checker is currently the U of A’s most extensive use of text-matching software, and the latest instance of academia’s shift towards Turnitin-type technologies. The increased use of text-matching software, and the need to discuss its advantages and drawbacks, was recognized by the Academic Integrity Task Force Report — a 2011 document outlining survey results and recommendations on academic integrity at the U of A.

PLEASE SEE PLAGIARISM • PAGE 3

### THEATRE PREVIEW

## God of Carnage shows darkly humorous side of civility

Jacquelin Gregoire

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @JAKIG1

A play with just four characters exchanging 90 minutes of nonstop dialogue has the potential to be unbearable. But the dark comedy of *God of Carnage* takes a mundane situation and uses it to examine the complexities of human emotions and social boundaries. With a sharp script, playwright Yasmina Reza examines an array of family and societal issues using almost nothing but dialogue.

The play is driven by an incident that occurs between two young boys in a playground.

After Benjamin Raleigh hits Henry Novak with a stick and knocks out two of his teeth, the boys’ parents decide to meet and have a civilized discussion about the matter. But the resulting behaviour from the adults reveals the fissures in both their marriages and parenting approaches, and what starts out as a respectful encounter gradually devolves into “something a little more primal.”

“One of the strongest themes in the play is an exploration of what lurks under the veneer of polite society,” director James MacDonald says.

PLEASE SEE CARNAGE • PAGE 15

# the gateway

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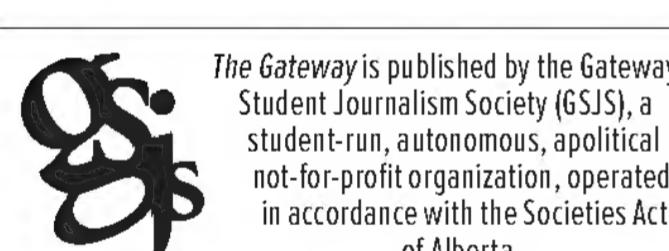
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## colophon

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## news briefs

COMPILED BY **Katelyn Hoffart**  
+ **Kaitlyn Grant**

### GSA EXECS ELECTED

A new crop of Graduate Students' Association candidates has been chosen for the executive team, following an election that wrapped up last Friday.

Ashlyn Bernier was named next year's GSA president, garnering 88.9 per cent of the votes in an uncontested race. "It feels great. I'm humbled by the opportunity to represent graduate students," Bernier said.

Two other races also ran uncontested, with Brent Epperson elected as Vice-President (Labour) and Huimin Zhong elected as Vice-President (Student Life).

Nathan Andrews edged out his opponent Andy Rathbone to win the Vice-President (Academic) race with a nearly 62 per cent majority.

Naseeb Adnan pulled off a 68 per cent win as Vice-President (Student Services), beating his opponent Zhendong Li. Issac Odoom and Hillary Sparkes were also elected as the two councillors-at-large.

"I can already tell there's just an amazing team and great personalities, really intelligent and innovative people that I think are going to work together really well and get a lot done this year," Bernier said.

Bernier said one of her main goals next year is to begin dialogue with graduate students on some of their concerns, "to make sure that any initiatives we take are in line with what the graduate students want

the GSA to do for them."

"I know it's going to be a lot of work, but I'm a firm believer that anything worth doing is a challenge, so I'm looking forward to taking my best shot."

### SU VOTING RECAP

Voter turnout didn't stray far from the norm for this year's Students' Union executive elections, despite heavily contested races and campaigning on voting days.

A total of 6,313 votes were cast, representing a turnout of nearly 22 per cent, which Chief Returning Officer Zach Fentiman described as "not terribly unusual" due to similar numbers seen in 2009 and 2010.

While three manned polling stations on campus where taken away, some were allocated to other areas to draw in more students, including a station added to HUB mall.

"The physical amount of people that turned up to vote at the polling stations as opposed to own their personal computer hasn't changed," Fentiman said, referring to the 10 per cent of voters that showed up to on-campus polling stations this year.

Voting reached its peak at around 11 a.m. on the first day with 547 votes cast.

"I think most people get their voting out of the way the first day," Fentiman said. "Campaigning on the last day may not have mattered because the majority of the people you might end up talking to will have already voted as well."

Augusta had the highest faculty turnout at 33 per cent, followed by the Faculty of Science, likely due to both faculties running referendums or elections alongside the SU, Fentiman said.

### SOCIAL MEDIA IN EDUCATION

The "blogfather" of *Scientific American* magazine's blog network, Bora Zivkovic, discussed the use of social media in education and research at a University of Alberta talk last week.

Zivkovic ended a week-long speaking series with a drop-in discussion on communicating research through social media. Students and staff discussed with Zivkovic the ins and outs of using blogs as personal and professional tools for research.

Blogs have brought together people from different professions and interests, including Marie-Claire Shanahan, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education who shared her experience of blog-initiated partnership to the discussion.

"It's a great way to make connections to people who are actually interested in the same thing you are, but sit in different fields and might call it something different, talk about it differently," Shanahan said, adding that it opens the door for opportunities for collaboration.

The discussion also addressed the technicalities of blog writing. The most popular blogs, according to Zivkovic, are writing about controversial topics and are written with personality.

The visibility of blogs prevents ideas and research from being scooped, but this visibility also causes problem when a writer gets too comfortable, Zivkovic said.

"When you blog for a while, it's easy and fun, but sometimes you don't stop and think."

Zivkovic's week-long speaking series was part of the U of A's Distinguished Speakers Program.

## streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Katelyn Hoffart + April Hudson**



**Kayla Bower** PHARMACY I

"Dressing up in green and getting wasted off green."



**Jason Byer** EDUCATION IV

"Hanging out with my wife and probably doing nothing."

As you may be aware, March 16 is St. Patrick's Day.

### WE ASKED...

## What are your plans for St. Patrick's Day?



**Mary Joyce Lumanglas** SCIENCE II

"Going to Camrose. Hopefully there might be something to do."



**Aaron Singleton** ARTS III

"Going down to O'Byrnes and having a bit of fun."

# HERO OF THE WEEK

**Zach Fentiman** successfully wrangled 17 candidates through an election, catered the party and had to deal with all the crap they left in SUB 3-06. We have to hand it to him: that's pretty heroic.

## gateway opinion

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

# Budget reallocations will impact vacant staff positions

**BUDGET** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"(The cuts) did not reduce our enrolment rate, but they did reduce our enrolment growth," Taylor said. "We maintained our classroom operations and field exercises, but our staffing levels have declined. There have been 55 positions affected over the past two years."

Over that time period, the Faculty of Science has been making differential cuts depending on where the flexibility was, Taylor said, but this time the budget reductions will likely be passed on to departments.

"These things take a while to play out," Taylor said. "Because of the scale of this budget reallocation, this will affect our staff complement."

He added that the faculty is looking to make cuts that will deliver future savings as well.

"I am anxious to see more optimistic financial situations ahead," Taylor said. "We must look at all our options, including things that will take longer or are more complicated to implement."

Although the Faculty of Science is beginning to feel the reallocations more than ever, there are fears the three-year funding cycle will lead to three consecutive years of two per cent budget reallocations for faculties, making it six years in a row of budgetary cutbacks.

This presents an issue for the Faculty of Arts, said Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack, as the two per cent increases from the provincial government are not enough to continue programs at their current quality.

"If this is left to its own devices, and if we don't start planning about it, we'll be in a situation where every year we will have to cut another two per cent of our operating budget so that we can pay for increases to salaries," Cormack said.

In light of the tight fiscal situation the Faculty of Arts is already in, Cormack added that this additional reallocation will most likely be met by



**BUDGET BREAKDOWN** Phyllis Clark says money must be reallocated. FILE PHOTO: SAM BROOKS

closing a number of vacant or soon-to-be vacant faculty positions.

"There will be a decrease in the number of professors, but that is a one-time solution," Cormack said.

"The Provost also knows this, and that we can't just keep on making these cuts over and over again. Over the course of the next year, we will probably be looking at alternate ways to organize what we do at the university, so that we don't have to keep making those reallocations."

However, Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Phyllis Clark said that faculties are going to be required to accommodate budgetary changes as long as the university continues to negotiate salary increases.

"They have to do something that permits us to take the money from the budgets but return it back so it can be put into the salary lines," Clark said. "Does it mean their budgets go down? No. Does it mean that how they spend their money changes? Yes."

## SU concerned with lack of student consultation in plagiarism checker

**PLAGIARISM** • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The report's proposed committee on text-matching software, however, is still in the works. Its emphasis on dialogue also seems to have come too late for the biological sciences department, which left all student bodies, including the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society (ISSS), out of the decision-making process.

Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Emerson Csorba said he was surprised by the decision to use the software, and expressed concern with the lack of consultation between students and faculty.

"You want to see the officials going to the representative body before any decision like this is made — something that has the potential to affect a lot of students and has a lot of controversy as well," Csorba said.

But U of A Discipline Officer Chris Hackett, who headed up the Academic Integrity Task Force, argued that the department had no obligation to seek student feedback.

"There's nothing in the code that says there's anything wrong with [text-matching software]. There's no policy that says you can't use it, so the [biological sciences department] is doing absolutely nothing

wrong," Hackett said.

The decision was made with students' best interests in mind, according to senior lab coordinator Maggie Haag.

Although Haag admitted that the plagiarism checker is still an imperfect process, she sees it as an effective "guide" for instructors and teaching assistants to monitor their students' intellectual property and to promote academic integrity in their classes.

**"This sort of program is reactive, and I would rather see measures that are proactive."**

EMERSON CSORBA

STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

fundamentally with the program," Csorba said.

Csorba said the text-matching software also risks damaging the relationship between students and instructors, especially since it only "prevents" cheating after the fact.

"This sort of program is reactive, and I would rather see measures that are proactive."

Hackett admits that the program risks compromising the relationships between instructors and students.

"The most powerful tool in dealing with plagiarism is an instructor talking to his students," Hackett said.

"If [text-matching software] becomes something that makes people complacent — that's one of the dangers that I would worry about."

But Haag feels that there's plenty of opportunity for dialogue in the biological sciences department, and stressed that the program is still an imperfect process that is only the first step in teaching students about intellectual property.

"The whole point is to get the students to think like a scientist, write like a scientist, and do all the processes like a scientist," Haag said. "We're trying to ingrain that from year one."

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# Red dresses a reminder of missing aboriginal women

**Katelyn Hoffart**

NEWS STAFF • @KATELYNHOFFART

A red dress hangs unobtrusively from a tree branch on Saskatchewan Drive, powdered with snow, gently blowing in the wind.

It's an eerie sight that was replicated more than 100 times across campus last week as part of the REDress project, which aimed to raise awareness about the marginalization of aboriginal women in Canada.

The creative project, initiated by Métis artist Jaime Black, brought attention to the number of missing or murdered aboriginal women across the country in a way that instantly captured the attention of those passing by.

"The reason we've put up these dresses in public space is that we're reclaiming space," said Pippa Feinstein, one of the project co-ordinators. "We're saying for the next week people are going to have to confront this issue and recognize that this issue exists. We've come to people instead of expecting people to come to us."

"I've already had a lot of feedback about people being really moved by the exhibit, because also it's very beautiful. It's almost like ghosts," Feinstein continued. "It's very evocative. Hopefully it really gets people thinking."

Feinstein said the diversity of the dresses is also representative of the diversity amongst indigenous women across the country.

"If you look around at the dresses, some would be worn by older women, some by younger women, some by professionals," Feinstein said. "It shows that these women are part of



**RED REMINDER** More than 100 red dresses were hung up around last week to raise awareness on missing aboriginal women. AMIRALI SHARIFI

many societies in Canada, and their absence is felt in many different places."

The project launched last year on campus, when about 60 dresses were displayed throughout the Law Building. After working on grant proposals back in September, Feinstein was able to help expand the project campus-wide this year alongside Andrea Menard, an

aboriginal student advisor for the Faculty of Arts.

The help of 20 other volunteers also made the project possible. Felicity Collins was one of these volunteers, and helped prepare the dresses and hang them up across campus.

"I really liked the concept of what the artist was doing. I like art personally, and I just thought the way

she was representing all these women was very haunting," Collins said.

"The weather contributed to making it kind of eerie, and brought out that sense that this is a heavy topic."

Issues that Canadian indigenous women currently face were addressed more thoroughly during a discussion panel with U of A academics and the project's artist Jaime Black last Tuesday.

The women on the panel shared their personal experiences with challenges aboriginal women continue to face in various community and academic settings, including gender legal realities and representations in power dynamics.

**"The reason we've put up these dresses in public space is that we're reclaiming space ... It's almost like ghosts. It's very evocative. Hopefully it really gets people thinking."**

PIPPA FEINSTEIN  
REDRESS PROJECT COORDINATOR

Through the REDress project, Black hopes the initiative not only created awareness, but that indigenous women will "develop their own voices and confidence in themselves to tell their own stories."

"The biggest thing I hope to teach — and I think (Black) would agree with this — is that colonialism is not something that happened hundreds of years ago," Feinstein said. "There's still so much systemic inequality and racism and sexism."

The dresses were displayed on campus March 5-9.

Menard said that four to five dresses hanging in Rutherford Library were stolen last week. University of Alberta Protective Services (UAPS) and Facilities and Operations were contacted, and neither was aware of the missing dresses. The identity of the thief is still unknown.

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AQIB SHIRAZI

## Students brave homelessness in growing U of A campaign

**Jonathan Faerber**

NEWS STAFF • @JONFAERBER

The Five Days for the Homeless Campaign is back with a mission this week, as eight University of Alberta business students brave the elements to raise \$25,000 for the Youth Emergency Shelter Society.

The campaign marks the seventh edition of the event, which now features 24 schools nationwide, after three U of A students took to the streets for charity back in 2005.

Participating students spend 12 hours outdoors every night away from washrooms and electronic communication, and avoid spending money entirely.

During the day, they must go to class, but can only eat and drink donated perishable items, while clothing, non-perishable food and funds are collected for youth at risk. Last year's event raised \$24,000.

Nicole Cayanan, who co-chairs the event with Kristiann McCool, said

both monetary and food donations have a large impact on the YES, which relies entirely on charity for its food supply. Cayanan added that the primary concern is funding the utilities and staffing needed to take in as many youth as possible.

After spending the first night outdoors, McCool shared some of the initial fears the group faced.

"It feels kind of hopeless not knowing when you're going to eat again — that part of it is kind of scary — and not knowing if you're going to have adequate clothing for the weather," McCool said. "You're not prepared for anything."

Both McCool and Cayanan stressed, however, the relative comfort they were experiencing compared to youth at risk, who have to face the dangers of street life in addition to starvation and homelessness. Cayanan said the emotional support the group is able to share are factors often missing from the streets.

"I could just see the difference that it would make if I didn't have people there. If I was completely on my own, it could have been a lot worse."

"So there's the emotional side," McCool added. "It's probably even worse than the physical thing, because physical problems can be alleviated but emotional things are harder to solve."

A number of events and guests culminating in a weekend party will keep the five students busy throughout the week.

The group says they particularly look forward to having the Dean of Business join them for a night, if the campaign manages to raise \$20,000 by Wednesday. In the meantime, the students will attend classes, work on extracurricular activities and do classroom runs.

The group will be sleeping in front of the Business Building from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night until March 16.

## Telus CEO emphasizes community in business practices at U of A talk

**Kate Black**

NEWS STAFF • @BLAHBLAHBLACK

Standing in front of a crowd of business suits and briefcases, Telus President and CEO Darren Entwistle made a bold statement: there is more to business than making sales.

The University of Alberta's Innovative Leader Series brought Entwistle to the Telus Building last Tuesday to engage in an interactive discussion on business leadership and innovation.

Entwistle focused on the importance of community giving, and highlighted its influence in strengthening business.

"We live in a world that has a symbiotic relationship between business and community. We're no longer the monopoly — people have choices," Entwistle said.

Driven by their motto "we give where we live," Telus and its team members have contributed more than \$260 million to charitable, not-for-profit organizations and have volunteered 4.2 million hours of service to local communities. In 2010, Telus was the first Canadian company to be recognized by the American-based Association of Fundraising

**"We live in a world that has a symbiotic relationship between business and community."**

DARREN ENTWISTLE  
CEO, TELUS

"What's important to people at a local level? People are profoundly moved (by local causes), as there is a much more real and greater connection," Entwistle said. "Rather than research, we tether to tangible causes that people can embrace."

This mindset seems to have worked for Telus, which saw a near 45 per cent increase in sales after

attaching products to community endeavours, such as the "Go Pink" campaign, which donated \$25 from every purchase of a pink BlackBerry Curve to purchase digital mammography technology for the customer's local healthcare facility.

However, Entwistle made it clear that philanthropic business is not a starting point. Rather, it needs to be treated as a business in itself, with its own set of dedicated principles, he said.

"If you're going to do cause marketing, you need the credentials to do it. We take hardened business strategies and apply them to philanthropy."

Entwistle summarized Telus' key points in business strategy: reflecting on the importance of accountability and positively reinforcing employees for taking risks.

However, he narrowed down the common denominator in all of these points to the importance of being unafraid of change and standing out from the status quo.

"In 2000, the shareholders were all saying, 'The internet? That's for geeks!'" Entwistle said. "But you better prepare to be different ... That's a sign that you're on to something snazzy."

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## VIDEO GAME CHANGER

Trend-setting video game designer and *Gateway* alumnus Jason Kapalka, '92 BA, '94 MA, is the creative force behind Bejeweled, Plants vs. Zombies, Peggle . . . and other popular puzzle games.

Join Jason at the Innovative Leaders Lecture Series on March 22. For details visit <http://www.innovativeleaders.ualberta.ca>

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# U of A looks to restore vision in patients with eye disease

Medical team recently awarded a \$1.3 million research grant to treat choroideremia

**Rachel Singer**

NEWS STAFF

A rare inherited genetic disorder that eventually leads to blindness in males may soon be a problem of the past thanks to a \$1.3 million research grant awarded to a University of Alberta medical research team.

Dr. Ian MacDonald, chair of the U of A's Department of Ophthalmology, has been collaborating with a team from Oxford University and Imperial College in London, England, to conduct clinical trials of a gene therapy treatment for patients with choroideremia.

Choroideremia is an X-linked recessive disorder that stems from a gene mutation on the X chromosome, which results in the production of a non-functional protein. This protein is called REP-1, and without it, the eye cells become dysfunctional. Because the mutation is found on the X chromosome, the disorder almost exclusively affects males.

Although gene therapy isn't a new development, this type of treatment has never been attempted for a retinal degenerative disease in Canada.

Gene therapy involves replacing or compensating for the non-functional gene in cells.

MacDonald says the research grant will pave the way for future clinical trials in gene therapy.

"This is certainly the way of the future, but we have to show people that it is safe and show people that it is effective," MacDonald said. "Putting all these things in place will be very important, and it will be better for the next person coming along."

One of MacDonald's patients is 32-year-old Moraldo Rantucci, who suffers from choroideremia, along with many of his male family members.

He started to lose his peripheral vision at the age of 19, and at 30, he quit driving. While a normal person's field of vision is 180 degrees, Rantucci's is about 15 degrees.

"It's a challenge, not driving. And with large crowds, where there are lots of people, it's tough to get around and you walk into a lot of things," Rantucci said.

There is no treatment for choroideremia, but with gene therapy, Rantucci is hopeful that he can

avoid blindness and restore some of his vision by participating in the clinical trials.

"For myself, it's just a little bit surreal, just because I didn't expect this data to come in my 30s," Rantucci said. "Not knowing what other people see, walking into things and not being able to play sports because the balls are moving too fast — it would definitely be great to gain back."

There is also a possibility of utilizing gene therapy at the U of A.

"I think one of the things that comes out of this is that we are building capacity to do ocular gene therapy," MacDonald said.

"Although this disorder is an important disorder, if we are able to do this particular trial and do it effectively, it will enable us to do other trials."

MacDonald hopes to start clinical trials by the end of this year, although the research team must first obtain permission from Health Canada's Research Ethics board.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research and two patient support groups are funding the five-year research grant.

# campus crimebeat

COMPILED BY **Alex Migdal**

## HUB LURKER

On March 7, University of Alberta Protective Services observed an unaffiliated male in HUB Mall. UAPS has previously dealt with the male, who had trespassed on campus before. Officers issued the male a ticket for trespassing, and the male was directed off campus.

## CAR SNOOPING

UAPS received a report on March 7 of an unaffiliated male on the ground level of South Field car park, who appeared to be looking inside of vehicles. Officers attended the area, but the suspect was gone when they arrived.

## TRASHIN' UP HUB

On March 8, UAPS received a report of an unaffiliated male loitering in HUB Mall. Officers attended the area and located a male walking around HUB asking people for shoes. They identified the male, who they had previously dealt with for sleeping in a U of A building. Officers issued the male a trespass notice, and took the male to the U of A Hospital to seek medical care.

## LISTER DAZE

UAPS observed a male passed out in Lister Centre on March 10. Officers identified the male as a U of A student, and discovered that he did not reside on campus.

The male was uncooperative and aggressive towards the officers. UAPS issued the male a ticket for public intoxication and escorted him home.

## PUBLIC EXCITEMENT

On March 9, UAPS received a report of a male groping himself on U of A property. Edmonton Police Service (EPS) was contacted. UAPS searched the area, but no male matching the description was found.

## PEMBINA SHOWDOWN

UAPS received a report of people yelling in a University of Alberta building on March 9. Officers attended the area and could hear voices coming from the rooftop of Pembina Hall.

Officers observed several empty beer cans at the front entrance of the building, but were unable to identify suspects as they had fled the area.

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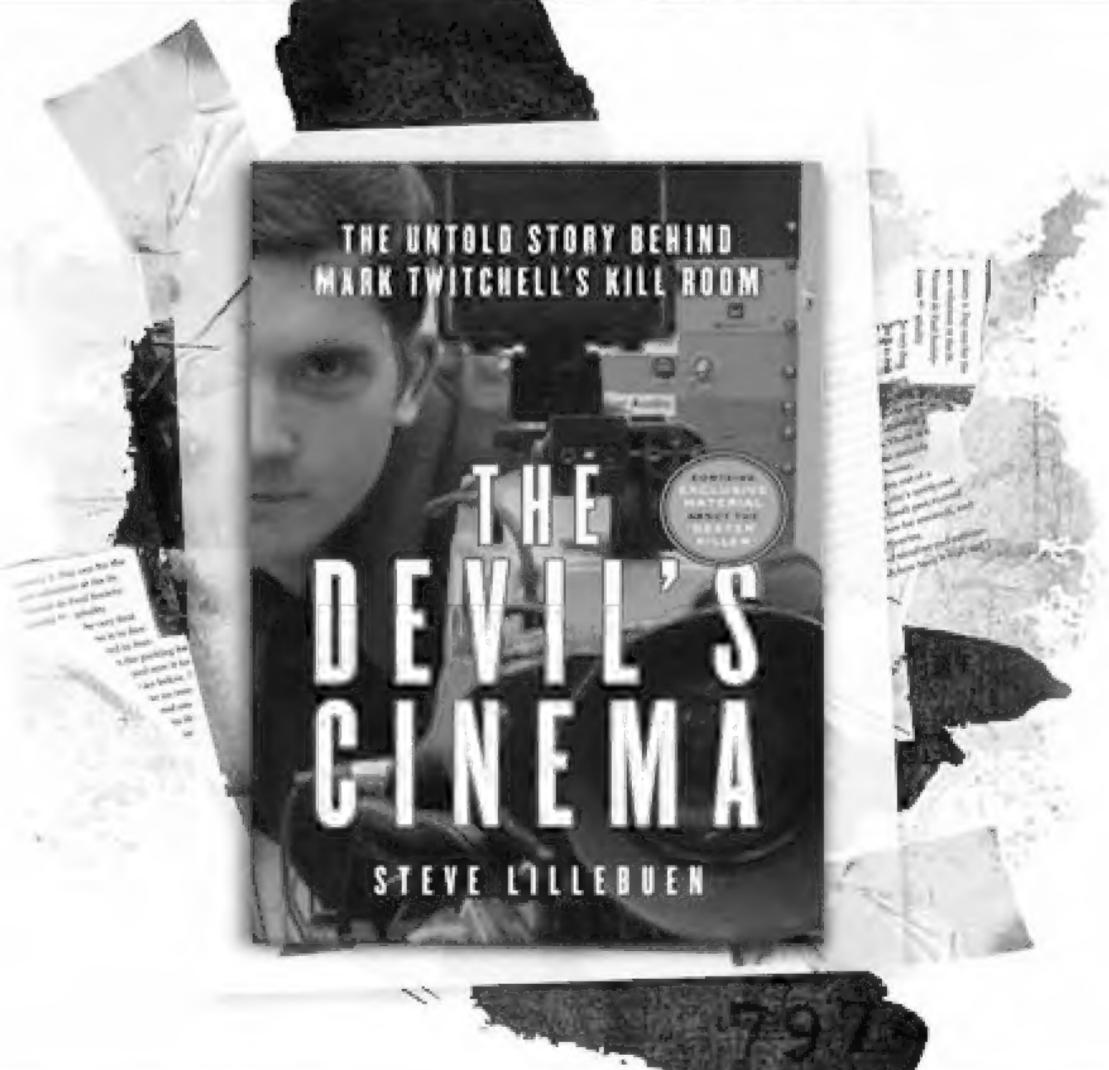
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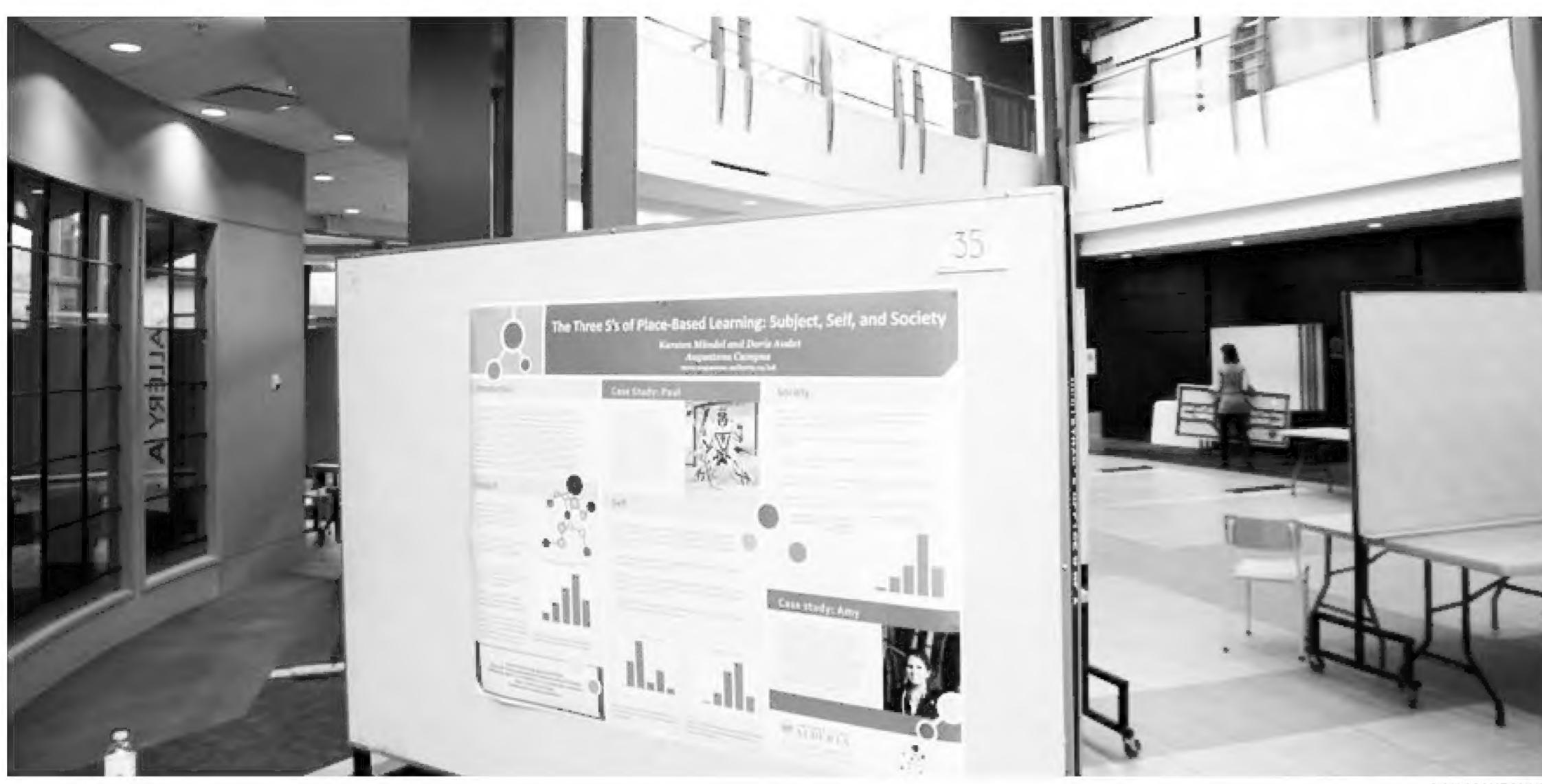
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## U of A students recognized for global health projects

**Katelyn Hoffart**

NEWS STAFF • @KATELYNHOFFART

A University of Alberta affiliated non-governmental organization put their innovative accomplishments in global sustainable health projects on show in a gala hosted in downtown Edmonton last Friday.

The Innovative Canadians for Change organization was founded by Abdullah Saleh and Abraam Isaac, two U of A medical students, along with Ali Aboud.

It started back in 2005 with the Kenya ceramic water filter project.

The filters are able to eliminate 99.9 per cent of bacteria, making clean drinking water a possibility for the 50-60 per cent of Kenyans who currently lack access to clean drinking water.

ICChange hopes to create a formal partnership with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry to develop projects together in the future.

"The U of A has played a big role not only in financial support, but technical support," said Abraam Isaac, an ICChange member. "They've lent us a lot of their faculty members to act as mentors and experts to consult on many of our projects."

Another member, Andre Isaac, says the goal of the project is to create a sustainable replicable model of a home-based water filtration system that could work in any environment.

But even with the success of the water filter project, Issac says other initiatives are still being

developed, including the Water Diversification project.

"What we're trying to do is build a second generation filter that will filter out not only bacterial and protozoan pathogens, but also chemical contaminants like arsenic, fluoride and organophosphates," Isaac explained.

Another project the group has launched involves the creation of an electronic medical record system in Nairobi that aims to connect the many clinics that operate within a slum in the city.

The organization also works directly with communities to determine their needs.

This collaboration leads to research and development, while maintaining ethical practices in relation to the environment and community.

"I think they've done a beautiful job of giving you a sense on what's different about what they're doing," said Don Simpson, the event's keynote speaker.

"Here in 2012, I find myself being inspired and challenged by the strength of ideas from another group of young people."

We are living in a world where in the past 18 months, the incredible seems to have become the inevitable," Simpson told the audience.

Saleh says the organization has the potential to become a movement as it strives to continue making change.

"We have a chance to fantasize, a chance to be structured in our innovation, continue to create projects and dreams, and change the world."

## Azania kicks off teaching festival

**Jonathan Faerber**

NEWS STAFF • @JONFAERBER

A bustling teaching fair and "FoT-spot" talks kicked off the Festival of Teaching on Monday, as the University of Alberta hosts its fifth edition of the annual event this week.

The first day of the festival featured 35 presentations in a teaching fair that addressed tools from Skype and Wikipedia to the Undergraduate Research Initiative and Community Service-Learning courses.

TED-inspired FoT (Festival of Teaching) talks titled "Inspire the Student/Inspire the Teacher" hosted by local author and educator Malcolm Azania also set the tone for the festival.

The week, described as a "celebration of teaching and sharing of innovation," also showcases teaching in open house "festival classes," an Augustana-based panel on international learning, and a finale featuring a World Cafe and a keynote

address by award-winning doctor Larrie Greenberg.

Neil Haave, one of the co-chairs organizing the festival, says the events are designed to both share and encourage teaching innovation and excellence at the U of A. The overall goals, he says, are awareness and engagement.

"(We) really wanted to help raise the profile of teaching at the U of A and to let people know about the outstanding teaching and the really interesting innovations that we have going on," Haave said.

"As faculty, we get so caught up with our own sort of world of research, teaching and service that we don't realize the great things that are happening across our university. This is a chance to share it with one another."

The FoT spots on Monday featured 3M recipients Billy Stream, Janet Wasselius, Michael Kennard and their respective students, as they discussed teaching at the U of

A with the help of Malcolm Azania.

Azania had the audience laughing on Monday afternoon as he framed faculty contributions with good-humoured anecdotes and analogies ("brains are like toilets" and "bad teaching is like herpes").

Azania stressed that teaching needed to be passion-fuelled and student-focused, suggesting that universities, in particular, should stop pretending that students are machines.

"At the university, we like to think of ourselves as really rational and logical," Azania said.

"That's why we fail so often and so many times, because we try to make people to change what they're doing ... If we show that we can laugh at our own failures as teachers, then we can solve a lot of problems in our relationships with students."

The Festival of Teaching runs until March 16. The schedule can be found at fot.ualberta.ca.

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# Opinion

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**Volunteer**

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

## Presidential race a predictable shame

DEMOCRACY TENDS TOWARDS MEDIOCRITY. THE SU ELECTIONS this year escaped that for the most part, with many of the races producing qualified winners. But when it came to the presidential race, voters blew it.

Current Vice-President (Student Life) Colten Yamagishi won the election with lazy promises and less relevant expertise than the competition. This is the third time in three years that the VP (SL) has walked into the presidency, and it's time we take this trend seriously.

For an organization obsessed with running clean and fair elections, so much so that a candidate's volunteer spontaneously, 'maliciously' speaking to his own class after another candidate leaves can be considered grounds for disqualification, it's ignoring the huge, dodgeball-adorned elephant in the room. Mike McGinn was penalized for his website going up early because pre-campaigning is not allowed — but when a VP (SL) decides to run for president, his near-year-long time in the job is arguably just that — pre-campaigning.

Nobody else in the SU is as well-known to the average student as the VP (SL), because the other VPs, and the President to an extent, largely work behind the scenes. While the VP (External), for example, is busy representing students' interests to the government, the VP (SL) is organizing a dodgeball game. One of these endeavours delivers instant fun, but largely unimportant results.

The other involves a slow process of lobbying, research and strategizing that sees gradual, but very important, payoff. One portfolio puts the name and the face of the VP in charge front-and-centre of students' attention during the most fun and exciting times of the year, while the other whisks the VP away from students' eyes, keeping him largely invisible.

It's not that the Student Life portfolio is a cushy gig, because organizing large events is difficult. At the same time, the SU has experienced support staff in place to facilitate these annual events. But when it comes to election time, the VP (SL) is happy to say "I organized that stuff." And there is more to the job than just hosting a dodgeball game — looking at president-elect Colten Yamagishi, one of the few specific campaign promises that he did deliver on as VP (SL), albeit in a slightly altered state, was getting an LGBTQ residence cohort effort started. But the point is, when it comes to the average voter, the guy who puts on the dodgeball game is famous for putting on a dodgeball game, not for much of his other work.

It's a lot easier to hear "dodgeball," recall the awesome time you had at the game — or any of the other events — and cast your ballot than sit through a more involved discussion with someone who spent the year trying to influence government.

People might interpret this as accusing voters of being stupid. The cynical me would agree. The more generous me would say, "students are just so busy." Either way, if students want the organization to which they pay membership fees to run at its best, they need to adjust their priorities.

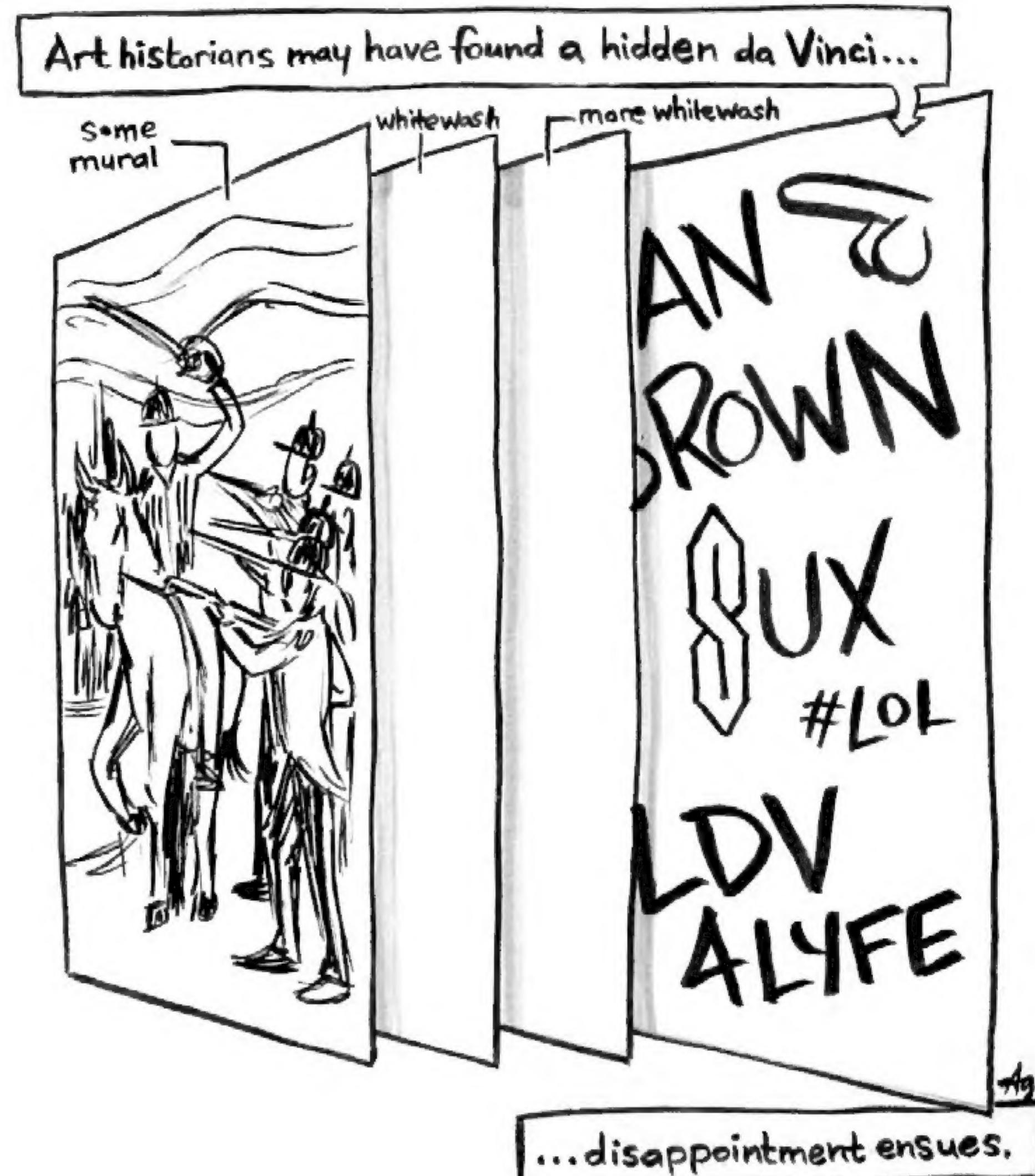
None of this is to say that a VP (SL) running for President is necessarily any less deserving. When Dehod started this recent trend, he did so with some great ideas. The dodgeball record began under his watch, and his efforts for mental health awareness and the Fall Reading Week are two of the things that define the SU today. With Tighe, we didn't really have a choice when it came to the president, but you have to give him points for stepping up.

But when it comes to Yamagishi, we saw a campaign consisting mainly of coattail-riding and "I organized the dodgeball game," win the election. Looking at his platform, the communications promise is the same tired thing we hear year after year, and the information terminals and InfoLink revamp idea is already something the SU has been working on. Then there was "resisting backdoor tuition," which isn't so much a campaign promise as it is his job. Finally, under "reignite past promises" he gave up any pretence of bringing anything new to the table, by pledging to continue doing the things his predecessors started. So in essence, his platform for the presidency can be summarized as, "I will keep doing things."

Adi Rao, who came in second place, would have taken the SU in the wrong direction — but at least he would have brought passion to the job, which counts for something. And Farid Iskandar, who hands-down won the debates, would have brought all the real expertise and knowledge the job requires and, if his year as VP (External) can be used as evidence, would have excelled.

For all the genuine excitement of the last two weeks, and despite an overall roster of strong winners, it's a shame that the presidential race ended this way. The worst part is that it was a predictable shame. Anybody who knows anything about SU politics called the race the second the candidates were announced. As we settle in for a year of mediocrity, we'd do well to ask ourselves how to break this trend and reward strong ideas or relevant experience, not lazy campaigning and dodgeball, with the presidency.

**Ryan Bromsgrove**  
OPINION EDITOR



ANTHONY GOERTZ

## letters to the editor

**FROM THE WEB**

### Field hockey program attracts students from around the country

(Re: "An interview with Athletics Director Ian Reade," by Rebecca Medel, March 7, 2012)

So what if the Pandas field hockey athletes are not from Edmonton? Players from other parts of the country are attracted to the U of A because of its strong field hockey program. The players that come to Edmonton are involved in coaching and developing the junior leagues in this community and are a huge asset to field hockey in Edmonton. As a Pandas player who has been a volunteer coach for both the indoor and outdoor field hockey leagues in Edmonton for the last four years, I feel disrespected and dismissed by Ian Reade's response that no one plays field hockey here and that no one cares.

**Toni Almhjell**  
VIA INTERNET

### Cutting field hockey team the easy thing to do

(Re: "An interview with Athletics Director Ian Reade," by Rebecca Medel, March 7, 2012)

Ian Reade thinks it's the right thing to do. No, it's just the easy thing to do. Take a sport with few players (in comparison to football and ice hockey for instance) and cancel it. As no one is interested (he presumes), there won't

be much backlash. He can then balance his budget and no other team will have to make sacrifices.

He tells the players their sport (for which they have trained half their lives) is deemed not supportable even though these athletes were promised support in their sport and their education and chose this school based on those promises. They had other choices. I hope U of A gets another choice of an Athletic Director!

**"GoPandas"**  
VIA INTERNET

### Smoking policy a good move for the SU

(Re: "New policy may restrict smoking on campus," by April Hudson, March 7, 2012)

I have to say about bloody time! I hate having to walk in/out of an entrance of a building such as Rutherford Library to get a cloud of cigarette smoke in the face, and having to breath it in. There are signs posted on building and doors saying no smoking within so many meters from any entrance. But yet you see people close to doorways smoking away and exposing people to second hand smoke. We know of the health risks associated with smoking first hand and second hand smoking, but it seems that there are a good number of smokers that seem not to care about other people and their health and/or health concerns. The other day while walking out of Tory there was a smoker smoking right beside the door not two feet away from it and not in the required distance away that the

no smoking sign says, someone did mention that to him but he shrugged his shoulders and resumed his way to lung cancer. If this new smoking policy did not get approved for whatever reason perhaps UAPS should be enforcing the smoking distance rule and fine said violator, I am sure after a while people will stop smoking in front of doorways and entrances and go the required distance to have a cancer stick.

**John Sexsmith**  
VIA INTERNET

### Election result woes

(Re: "Yamagishi new SU president," by April Hudson, March 9, 2012)

President? I didn't vote for you! Ah well, since we're stuck with him, he'd better live up to certain promises he made the previous year \*coughcampusmusicalcough\*

**"Annoying Peasant"**  
VIA INTERNET

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

# Students' Union elections gave campus options



**Justin Bell**  
MANAGING EDITOR

It was quite the election year: I laughed, I cried — it was an emotional roller coaster. Well, maybe the 2012 Students' Union election wasn't that big of a ride, but it was still one of the most exciting student elections I've seen in the six years I've been watching student politics.

It was, for all intents and purposes, a more exciting election than it had rights to be. The results weren't much of a surprise for those people watching closely. No one was overly shocked that Colten Yamagishi took the presidency, or that Andy Cheema earned a second term as Vice-President (Operations and Finance).

**The bigger question remains: does all of this election mumbo-jumbo make the Students' Union more relevant?**

But a few of the races were closer than most of the *Gateway* punditocracy would have predicted, with last-minute presidential candidate Adi Rao taking second place on a platform of social justice. And Mike McGinn came within 350 votes of unseating an incumbent executive in the VP (Operations and Finance) race.

What these two candidates demonstrate is that we finally had an election that was more than a popularity contest. This wasn't about who is friends



**SO MUCH CHOICE** Results night may have seen many winners and losers, but the diverse platforms gave undergraduates more options than recent years. AMIRALI SHARIFI

with whom, or who can wrangle up the most votes from their "base," whether that be Lister, Orientation or any other group on campus.

Instead, this election was about ideas. Rao and a few other candidates, including incoming Board of Governors Representative Brent Kelly, talked about social justice and their vision of the future of the Students' Union. Rao wanted the SU to focus more heavily on social issues and had a platform that called for more resistance on issues of disagreement with university administration. That new vision got Rao 23 per cent of the first-round votes, and likely contributed to

a voter turnout of 21 per cent, up from 16 per cent last year.

This year also saw a slew of female candidates enter the race. Five women were in the running for a spot, with Kelsey Mills coming in a close second to Dustin Chelen for the Vice-President (Academic) position. It's slightly unfortunate that the executive will still be entirely men, but it wasn't for a lack of strong female candidates.

It was quite a turnaround from last year, when all but one executive campaign went uncontested — and even that race had to be rerun because of a poor decision made by the Chief

Returning Officer at the time.

While they did a relatively good job, this year's execs were pretty much given their positions because no one else wanted a high-paying job that looks amazing on a resume. Next year, we have a group of people who have earned their way in based on a vision of the Students' Union they had to sell to the electorate.

That's not to say it will necessarily be the best year, or that these candidates will follow through on every campaign promise (read: where's my campus musical?), but at least we know the direction the SU will be heading this year. And it's a vision of

the organization that was picked out from 17 candidates across six different positions.

The bigger question remains: does all this election mumbo-jumbo make the Students' Union more relevant? While you can view it as a race to the ballot box after last year's single-candidate elections, I think it speaks to renewed engagement in the election process at the highest level of the SU. More people campaigning means more candidates talking to average students, which means more voices adding to our elected student organization. It's a win-win no matter how you look at it.

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## Kony 2012 campaign too vague



**Katelyn Hoffart**  
OPINION STAFF

The latest social media activism fad exploded last week with the emergence of the Kony 2012 campaign. While saving kidnapped child soldiers is undoubtedly a worthy cause, the Invisible Children campaign is visibly lacking.

One of the many issues with the video is that it tells the audience Joseph Kony's story mostly through the producer trying to explain the situation to his toddler. He merely presents the information to his son as Kony being "the bad guy." Of course, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army is responsible for committing atrocious war crimes, but the video's version of events is very much dumbed down.

Throughout, there's an obvious lack of real information and hard facts — though there's plenty when it comes to all the products available to purchase from the Invisible Children Organization. The time spent in the video marketing their products would have been better used by delving deeper into the issues facing Uganda. Rebel

groups and child soldiers are always worrying to hear about, but only one child's experience is told with little context for the ongoing conflict in the country. The many wars going on in African states are extremely complex, and the video fails to present an understanding of what's going on other than "they're abducting children."

Another blatant flaw with this campaign is that no one actually seems to know where Kony is. The map shows that Kony's forces have moved eastward out of Uganda. The solution this campaign offers to keep a small group of 100 soldiers in Uganda to work directly with the Ugandan military — a tactic questionable in itself — is completely irrelevant. If Kony has moved out of Uganda, it would make more sense to advocate the expansion of the search.

The context of why this video arose is strange considering Uganda has been experiencing a relatively peaceful period contrary to the situation for the past few decades. Child soldiers are a serious ongoing problem throughout the world, but the video blows the Kony issue out of proportion to make things seem more dire than they are. In fact, according to Dr. Beatrice Mpoma, director of a community health organization operating in Uganda called Kairos, said in *The Telegraph*, "There

has not been a single soul from the LRA here since 2006."

Regardless of the video, the apparent message is that Kony can be found if you either share the video, put up a ton of posters or buy all this merchandise. That'll cause a domino effect through Western governments with all the children returning to their homes at the end of it. This is yet another example of the video understating the complexities of reality, and disregarding factors such as the implications of essentially sending these American soldiers to start a war against a faction in a foreign conflict. What comes across is that Africa needs the West to help save the day, with America leading the way by jumping into Uganda guns blazing.

There is no doubt that the Invisible Children campaign has thrust the issue of child soldiers into the public eye. But it doesn't provide a thorough explanation of the events, making a complex problem seem simple. It takes advantage of people's emotions by using a heart-wrenching story to help sell products to fund a solution that's not viable. The Invisible Children campaign does a poor job by presenting such vague information, and will be soon forgotten as the masses move on to the next viral trend.

## Conservative tactics bad for Canadians



**Tyler Hein**  
OPINION STAFF

I feel privileged to live in a country whose representatives are chosen by the people and whose government acts for the best interests of the people. Unless of course you disagree with those actions. In that case, according to a recently released letter penned by Conservative MLA Hector Goudreau, it's best you keep your mouth shut.

On Jan. 26, Betty Turpin, superintendent for the Holy Family Catholic School Division, was quoted in the *Edmonton Journal* expressing frustration with her lack of success in lobbying the Alberta government to replace the dilapidated Holy Family School in Grimshaw. And then on Feb. 9, Dunvegan-Central Peace MLA Hector Goudreau had sent her letter stating that her "comments could be upsetting to some individuals (within government). This could delay the decision on a new school."

That letter became public earlier this month, and regardless of whatever backtracking Goudreau has done since, this is still blatant evidence of a former cabinet minister and current MLA insinuating that criticism of the Alberta government will be met with some degree of hostility. It should be ludicrous to hear a story like this — one where the government deliberately taunts its power and the electorate's lack thereof — but, disappointingly, it's becoming the trend.

Goudreau's acknowledgement of the government's willingness to act like petty children when confronted seems somehow mundane when compared to more overt power plays by federal politicians. It hardly even measures up when compared to the case of Conservative government house leader Peter Van Loan openly admitting to his party hiring a polling firm to call constituents in the Montreal riding of Liberal MP Irwin Cotler last December. The calls spread the rumour that Cotler was stepping down, asking for voters' support for the Conservative Party in the by-election. A by-election that wasn't going to take place, as Cotler

had never spoken about stepping down.

This took place after an earlier 2009 incident where the Conservative Party used taxpayer money to publish and distribute flyers indirectly accusing Cotler — who is Jewish — of participating in an anti-Semitic conference.

It's become commonplace for people to ridicule the events currently unfolding in the U.S. Republican primaries. And that's probably because it's really easy. Hell, when viewed in context, the set-ups become the punch lines themselves. Did you hear the one about the pizza joint owner who became the front-runner of the Republican Party?

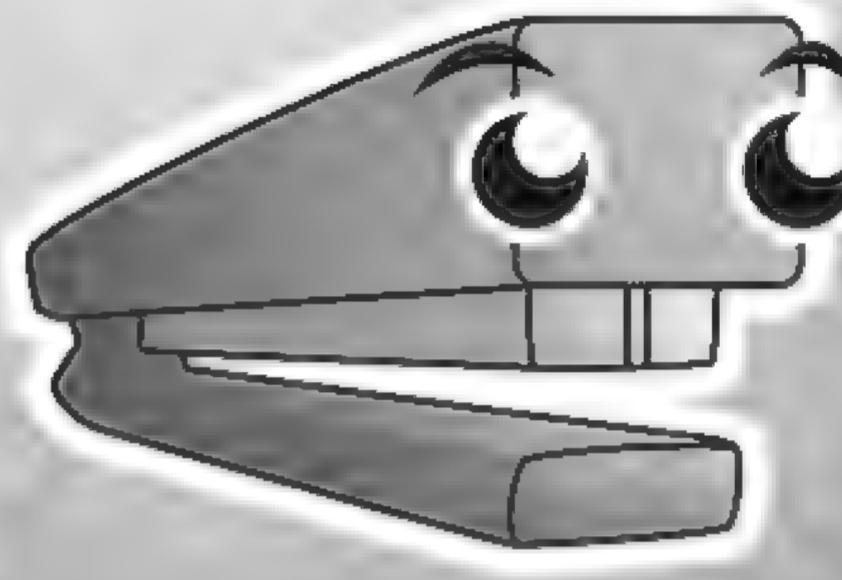
But we fail to be able to find the same humour — or really any humour — within our own country's politics, whether local, provincial or federal. That's because our political process stopped being funny and just became ridiculously sad. And that's much worse.

This trend of bullying voters and the electorate by the Conservatives shows a blatant disregard for the democratic process of this country. It needs to stop.

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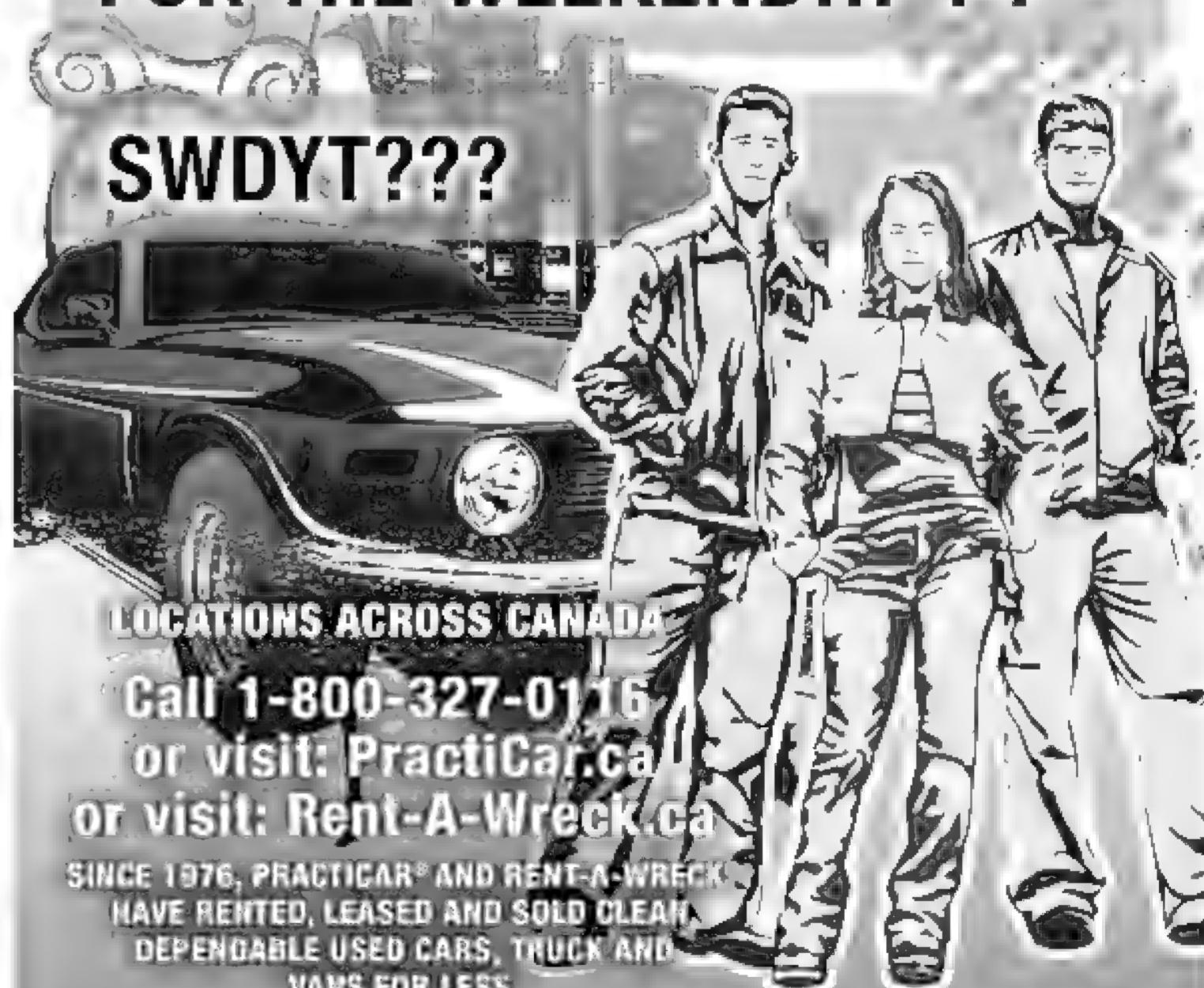
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# Quebec tuition increases not that bad



**Josh Schmaltz**  
OPINION STAFF

You may have seen people around campus sporting small red pieces of fabric pinned to their coats. What is that about? Well, tuition is going up at Quebec universities by about 60 per cent, and the protest movement against these hikes has adopted red as their official colour, with students here wearing the patches in solidarity. An increase of 60 per cent sounds like a big number, so the students of Quebec are perfectly justified in their protesting and rioting, right? Well, maybe not.

The proposed tuition increase is \$325 per year for the next five years. That's like five, six, maybe even seven CoSSS fees, so clearly this is outrageous and high-handed conduct by the Quebec government. Or maybe not. This year, a student from Quebec paid an average of \$2,890 in tuition at a Quebec university. In five years, that will become approximately \$4,700 per year once the increases take effect.

Personally, I have paid an average of \$6,590 per year in tuition through four years of classes, and that excludes silly things like co-op program fees. I've paid 40 per cent more than the average Quebec student will five years from now and I still got a great deal on my education. It makes me wonder exactly what they're whining about in Quebec.

But wait, it's not fair to compare an engineering student's average tuition to that of all students because engineering students take more course



**SOLIDARITY AT ANY COST** Quebec students will have to pay a little more, but the patch is overdoing it. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAN MCKEEHIE

units per year, you say. Well, let's work that one out. The Quebec averages are based on a student taking 30 units of course weight per year, so after the increases, a Quebec student will pay approximately \$156.67 per course unit. I've taken an average of 42 units per year, so that's \$156.90 per course unit. If you adjust for five years of inflation at two per cent, I've paid \$173.23 per unit. Turns out I've still paid more for my education now than a Quebec student will in five years. To put that into perspective for an arts or science student, you'd be looking at paying \$6,880.60 per year for a full course load. That is still lower than Quebec students will be paying.

Interestingly, McGill University would charge me \$195.20 per credit simply because I'm not from Quebec — and Quebec is the only province in Canada where universities charge out-of-province students a tuition differential. The new tuition hikes apply only to students from Quebec, so my cost to attend McGill wouldn't change.

In the end, it looks like students in Quebec are complaining about their really cheap tuition eventually becoming slightly less cheap as compared to other provinces. No one likes tuition increases, but this equalization has been a long time coming. Canadian students already have it pretty

easy — just ask any international student about how much they pay to go to a Canadian university.

I find it very difficult to support a movement protesting that they'll have to pay the same price as everyone else. I hate to burst the protesters' bubble, but post-secondary education has a market price, and everyone needs to pay their share. If you really want to go to university, then you will find a way to pay for it, whether it be rich parents, a student loan, scholarships, a part time job or some combination of those. Whining, complaining and going on "student strike" is not going to change that fact.

## the burlap sack

COMPILED BY Darcy Ropchan

People with gauge ears look disgusting. A massive hole in your head is not fashionable. That's why they're going into the burlap sack this week.

I don't know how this fashion trend caught on. I guess one day, someone said: "Gee, you know what would look good? Putting a giant fucking hole in my ear. That'll show the world."

The only practical use I can find for gauge ears is for keeping things attached to your body. I suppose you could use them to keep pens, pencils and cigarettes handy. And you could also clip things to them.

So I suppose they might be somewhat useful. But that doesn't change the fact that they're still hideous.

If you're going to mutilate your body, you might as well go big. Why not get a lip disk. Maybe you should have your neck elongated. There're no limits to the way you can make yourself horrifying to look at.

You might think gauge ears are cool, but you look like a douche. I want to put my finger through your ear hole and pull down on it every time. That's why you're in the burlap sack. And don't go punching any holes through that. It won't work.

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are administered.*

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# Get off my Facebook, grandma



Darcy  
Ropchan  
OPINION STAFF

People say you should respect and listen to your elders, as though old people are Yoda, dripping with wisdom that they should dispense every chance they get. That's bullshit. Old people are some of the least sophisticated and knowledgeable people on this planet. If you want proof, you need only look to Facebook.

For the sake of argument, I'm going to consider anyone over the age of 50 as elderly. We all have old people on our friends list and it's usually family members or someone otherwise closely related to you. Yeah, we love them in real life, but they are a plague on Facebook that needs to be deleted.

Old people have no idea how to use the internet. It's a scientific fact. How many times have you logged onto your Facebook, only to see your news feed clogged with stupid status updates and crappy Facebook game notifications from your elderly friends? It's bad enough when I have to put up with shit from people in my cohort. But when I see old people doing it, I start to seriously doubt the supposed wisdom of our elders.

## Facebook is an amazing modern invention that's being ruined by a bunch of old dinosaurs.

Did you know that 99 per cent of people won't have the guts to repost a status about some stupid bullshit about some stupid faux activist cause? I know that they won't have the guts. I know that because the old family members on my friends list post that stuff all the time. But 100 per cent of me doesn't give a shit. Posting a status about breast cancer awareness or human rights crises accomplishes nothing. Keep that crap off my newsfeed.

Even worse is when they post



**QUIT IT** No matter how many invites I get, I'm not playing these stupid games.

supposedly funny images from the '90s and all their other old-peoples friends comment on them, explaining how they are so amusing and relevant to their lives. Give it a rest. It's nice that you finally found your way onto the internet, but the rest of us saw it years ago.

The elderly can also wreak havoc on Facebook statuses. Nothing diminishes your cool status like having an older relative comment on it. I mean come on grandma, I'm stealing quotes about atheism from Richard Dawkins and George Carlin and claiming them as my own so I can show my friends how witty and edgy I am. I don't need you liking or commenting "lol," or "That's nice, dear -Love Grandma," on my status.

And old people love Facebook games like they love going to bed early, complaining about new music, and eating mashed vegetables. I don't really have a problem with that. Sure,

Facebook games are stupid and pointless, but to each his own. What pisses me off are the flood of invites I get telling me to join these games.

I don't need to know how many points you've accumulated in Farmville or Mob wars. Save my fingers the effort of ignoring your invites and don't send them to me. If you really need to brag about it that badly, you can tell me about it in real life. And even then I'll probably ignore you.

Facebook is an amazing modern invention that's being ruined by a bunch of old dinosaurs. I'm not suggesting old people should be kicked off Facebook, because that would be mean. Instead, they should have limited Facebook options. Log on, wish me a happy birthday and then log off. No statuses, no game invites, no comments.

Get off my Facebook, you damn oldies.



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Brent Kelly you're hot! Marry me!  
Congrats to Brent Kelly! Bring your integrity to the BOG table!

Attn gangsters at the gym: RE-RACK YOUR FUCKING WEIGHTS!

I wish my courage extended beyond sitting beside a cute boy on the bus...but I can barely even do that.

Three Pikes and Two Fijis in next year's exec!!! Are these two fraternities taking over campus????

Please turn the heat down in RuSo. The men's washroom downstairs is like a sauna.

People bitch too much on here

Lonely mathematician seeking bearded man who owns a cat and likes math. ; ;

The only reason I pick up this shitty propaganda rag is for the 3\$ bulk barn coupon. Holla!

Thank you, man with beard in the Mac Hall elevator for the Trident Layers gum. This deed will be repaid;) So are we going to see a campus musical or not?

How do I love you,  
When I'm attracted to all?  
The world, my fervor.

To the engineering student in Kamp's Econ 102 TR @ 9:30 lecture: stfu. No one cares how tired or how far behind you are.

Cute girl on the U of A website "festival of teaching" slide. I like ur smile. Let's hook up!

i thought you were cute with your beard and you're still cute now that you shaved it off! i probably won't compliment you on it though, i'm too frightened to approach you.

Don't hide in the urinal.

Stand back and pee at angle for hygiene and style.

As the day ages,  
The gradient in the sky  
Oscillates beauty.

Hate it when you print something and the person printing ahead of you takes half your document! Check please, printing credits don't grow on trees, especially the colour ones!

I'm interested in being your lesbian lover and sharing your BF!

What is it with people at talking very loudly in Cameron? Be respectful of everyone else that is quiet. STFU!

Person with peanut allergies: If you don't like the smell, that's one thing, but in order to have a reaction, don't you have to ingest the peanuts? Tyler! You're in my class and your picture SUCKS! I know your better than that!!

Where is the Facebook page for Health Week 2012? I can't find it! Way to drop the ball SU.

Actually, when you're smoking while walking to class, you ARE blowing smoke in our faces

This beet juice stuff that they are pouring on the ground is cool and all, but man does it smell awful.

Chem 102 lecture was SO NOISY. STFU. its prbly the most important class and I don't care if you know everything

Everyone should STFU!!! :(

I can't fucking find a computer lab on campus that doesn't have some jackass mashing on their mouse playing games.

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# Arts & Culture

## social intercourse

COMPILED BY Alana Willerton  
INHERITING THE ARTS & CULTURE THRONES

### Lady Antebellum: Own the Night 2012 World Tour

With Darius Rucker and Thompson Square

Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

Rexall Place (7424 118 Ave.)

Starting at \$39 at ticketmaster.ca

It's not hard to see why Lady Antebellum has been exploding on the charts lately. As one of country's most popular group acts of the moment, they first grabbed attention with their 2010 song "Need You Now," but cemented their fame with the success of their latest album, *Own The Night*. Comprised of singers Hilary Scott, Josh Kelley and Dave Haywood, Lady Antebellum meshes together a pop country sound, creating some of the best singles of the year.

### Artists Emerge National Hip Hop Competition

Featuring Dana Wilson, Lyle Beniga and Caroline "Lady C" Fraser

Thursday, March 15 – Sunday, March 18

Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 Ave.)

Starting at \$6.50 at artistsemerge.com

Dance studios and professional dance crews will be battling it out on the dance floor this weekend at the Artists Emerge National Hip Hop Competition, shining a spotlight on Canada's hip-hop culture. Celebrity judges from popular TV shows like *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* and *America's Best Dance Crew* will be on hand to judge the competition. A staple of the dance industry for the last six years, Artists Emerge works to support hip-hop dance culture in Canada while training and educating dancers hoping to find work in the entertainment industry.

### Soundbursting No. 1

Created by Gary James Joynes

Runs until Saturday, April 14

Harcourt House Gallery (10215 112 St.)

Free

We hear sounds all the time, but most of us never think about what they might look like. Edmonton artist Gary James Joynes aims to answer this question with video projections that turn sequences of soundbursts into art. Building off his love for electronic compositions and all things involving technology, Joynes experiments with ways to visually represent everyday noises. A sound artist, composer and visual artist, Joynes overloads our senses by allowing us to not just hear sound, but also see it.

### 21 Jump Street

Written by Michael Bacall and Jonah Hill

Directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller

Starring Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill and

Ice Cube

Opens Friday, March 16

Based on the television series of the same name, many will remember *21 Jump Street* as the show that turned Johnny Depp into a household name back in the '80s. In this adapted version of the show, Schmidt (Jonah Hill) and Jenko (Channing Tatum) take on the roles of two underachieving police officers whose youthful appearances make them the perfect choice for going undercover at a local high school. Posing as actual students, Schmidt and Jenko must find a way to bring down a synthetic drug ring circulating in the school, all without blowing their cover.



## Jason Segel joins cast of deadbeat heroes in *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*

### FILM PREVIEW

#### *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*

WHEN ▶ Opens Friday, March 16

WRITTEN BY ▶ Mark and Jay Duplass

DIRECTED BY ▶ Mark and Jay Duplass

STARRING ▶ Jason Segel, Ed Helms and Susan Sarandon

**Paige Gorsak**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @PAIGEGORSAK

With Jason Segel at the helm as the lovable loser, Mark Duplass brings his brand of independent dark comedy to Hollywood's silver screen with *Jeff, Who Lives at Home*, the painfully hilarious story of a 30-year-old who still inhabits his mother's basement. Co-written with his brother Jay, Duplass' film unearths the humour in a seemingly hopeless situation.

"We really like I guess what we call tragic comedy," Duplass says. "Comedy that is rooted in seemingly sad situations."

*Jeff, Who Lives at Home* stays true to that sense of tragedy, as Segel's character Jeff optimistically chases enlightenment while living in his mother's basement without friends or a job. Along the way, Jeff teams up with his older brother Pat (Ed Helms), another unfortunate soul looking for emotional fulfillment. From there the Duplass brothers' dark hilarity ensues.

"Those are inherently sad or dark situations," Duplass says of the film's plot. "But for us, at the end of the day, we just love these guys so much and we root for them and we want them to win."

Duplass and his brother have quietly risen

to fame with independent films like *The Puffy Chair* and *Cyrus*. But with their latest film, they find themselves in the new high-stakes domain of big-budget films and well-known Hollywood names. With star power like Susan Sarandon playing Jeff and Pat's mother, *Jeff, Who Lives at Home* has been an entirely new directorial experience.

"(Segel) and (Helms) — while really popular actors — they're roughly our age, and we felt like peers to a certain extent. That felt normal. And then all of the sudden, this screen legend/goddess who — make no mistake about it — is smoking hot, comes down and descends on our set," Duplass says of Sarandon. "We didn't want to embarrass ourselves in front of her, and didn't want to offend her with our juvenile film-making tactics."

Sarandon's powerful presence presented challenges for everyone involved, with Segel and Duplass both admitting they were "star-struck." But for Segel, Sarandon's reputation presented some different challenges for him as an actor.

"I was in awe the whole time," he admits. "Any time you get to work around somebody that you've admired for so long, there's a little part of you that feels like you've made it — like it's indicative of the fact that you're coming up in the world."

"But, the hardest thing for me acting-wise in the whole movie is that I've had a crush on Susan Sarandon for such a long time," Segel continues. "So just to act — just to suppress that I was wildly attracted to the woman playing my mom — was easily the hardest part of the movie for me."

In addition to dealing with an old schoolboy crush on set, *Jeff, Who Lives at Home* presented other challenges for the actor. The film's plot takes place over the course of one day, making it difficult to keep things chronological, especially for Segel.

"I gained 25 pounds during the shooting of

this movie," Segel laughs. "So to me, in addition to all of the complicated themes, it's also the very subtle story of a man who gains 25 pounds over one day."

"It's the *Benjamin Button* of weight gain," Duplass adds.

After dealing with these unanticipated complications, the other issues of making the film went off without a hitch. Duplass credits the apparent ease of the rest of filming to the collaborative efforts of his actors in getting laughs through improvisation, a style of acting where an actor makes up lines and scenes spontaneously. By the end of filming, only half of the original script made it into the movie, as the cast crafted the rest of the lines through spur-of-the-moment jokes.

For Segel, that natural improvisation on set came as a result of the fully formed character written in the Duplass brothers' script. The plot of *Jeff, Who Lives at Home* came from what most people see as ordinary life, which meant improv was made simple. The collaboration, he says, is "about having trust versus having to adjust for each other."

"It was just so clear to me how to play the part, and that's all due to the way the brothers wrote the movie," Segel says. "There's a lot of complexity to Jeff, but he's really very simple. I would just show up and be really regular."

As *Jeff, Who Lives at Home* brings Segel's expected sense of humour, Duplass reaches unexpected heights in his career. But despite the new and exciting tasks of working with huge stars and a larger-than-ever budget, he still finds his inspiration in his commitment to dark comedy and the ever-lovable underdog.

"I'm just constantly drawn to people who, despite the fact that all the odds are stacked against them, are going for glory in their lives," he says. "It just inspires me and makes me laugh too, particularly when they're ill-equipped to achieve that glory — like Jeff is."

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A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.



JULIANNA DAMER

## Human nature comes undone with darkly comedic *Carnage*

### THEATRE PREVIEW

#### **God of Carnage**

**WHEN** Runs every night until Sunday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE** Citadel Theatre (9828 101A Ave.)  
**WRITTEN BY** Yasmina Reza  
**DIRECTED BY** James MacDonald  
**STARRING** Fiona Reid, Ric Reid, Ari Cohen and Irene Poole  
**HOW MUCH** Starting at \$46.20 at the Citadel box office

**Jacquelin Gregoire**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @JAKIG1

#### CARNAGE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Because the couples in the play are so determined to avoid confrontation, they repress feelings that come out later more harshly than intended. As a result, the theatrical climax of *God of Carnage* contains important personal realizations for both the characters and the audience watching their discussion.

The irony of the situation lies in the fact that the families' attempt

at problem-solving creates more issues. And as their carefully-constructed facades crumble, they reveal dark tendencies that prowl beneath the surface of society.

"Both these couples have a certain challenge to their relationship ... the people we love the most are also the ones who can drive us the most crazy," McDonald says. "It's an undercurrent: the fact that the parents are gathered to talk about their children behaving in a certain way end up reflecting the reality that as much as they think they're removed from the way their children behave, they behave like children themselves."

MacDonald calls the play a black comedy, despite its light-hearted premise of a simple discussion between two sets of parents. The temperamental characters reveal the complications of love and loyalty, while taking the audience on a wholly unexpected journey. With the action taking place in real time — over the course of a single afternoon in the characters' lives — the unanticipated elements are vital to the play's extensive evolution and subtle character development.

"It's a slow burn, and you're

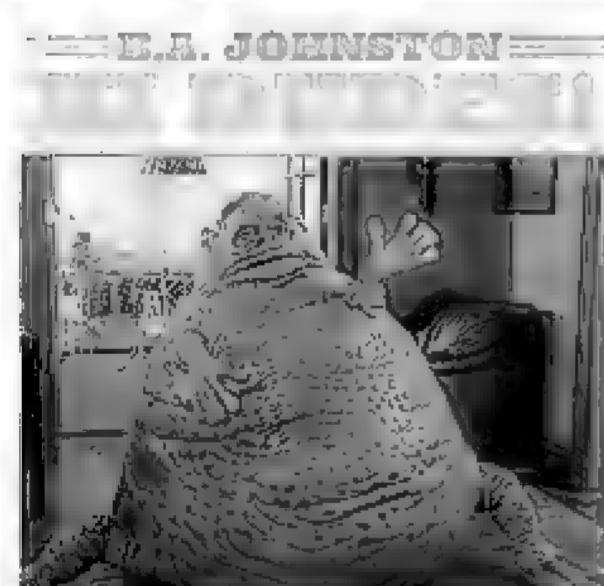
looking at a play that evolves very distinctively ... If it doesn't constantly take you by surprise and the unexpected doesn't happen, then I don't think it's doing its job," McDonald says. "It really does start as one play and end as another one."

Because the play deals with the challenges of relationships and public perceptions, it's not a difficult task for the audience to find parts of themselves onstage. As a simple meeting and discussion devolves into maniacal behaviour, a brutally honest portrayal of human nature makes the characters onstage all too real.

"Aside from being very witty and having a good ear for dialogue and circumstance, [Reza] also has a really good understanding of people," MacDonald explains. "One of the things I love about the play is that the characters are so representative and so recognizable ... You feel like they're people who you know or people that your parents know, they might be your parents, they might be your children."

"I'm sure everyone will identify with at least one of the characters — even if they don't want to."

### ALBUM REVIEW



#### **B.A. Johnston** **Hi Dudes!**

Mammoth Cave  
bajohnston.ca

**Ramneek Tung**  
ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

B.A. Johnston is back with his eighth album *Hi Dudes!*, yet another record obsessed with retro pop culture. While Johnston's shtick has the potential to get boring, his sharp wit and gift for melody keeps his music fresh no matter how many times he refers to 20-year-old video games and long-forgotten sitcoms. On his latest, *The Price Is Right*, *Final Fantasy VII* and *The Goonies* all make appearances in a succinct 30-minute record that

delivers laughs throughout.

Mostly driven by acoustic instrumentation, Johnston occasionally uses 8-bit cartridges to create sounds reminiscent of old NES games, making something that's both ultra cheesy and nostalgic. Two of the Nintendo beat driven tracks, "Best Day Ever" and "Eye of the Douchestorm," are album highlights. The former glorifying the retired McPizza, and the latter

launching an incendiary attack on contemporary pop culture, where *Jersey Shore*, tribal tattoos and the UFC are all on Johnston's hit list.

While the majority of tracks are humorous anecdotes about the pop culture of yesteryear, there are a few heartfelt tales about lost youth that resonate with anyone who grew up in the '80s or '90s. "I Miss You, Arcade" and "Showcase Showdown" are poignant moments where Johnston recalls playing Capcom's legendary *Street Fighter II* in 7-11 and waking up to a bowl of breakfast cereal and Bob Barker's days on *The Price Is Right*.

While B.A. Johnston is pigeonholed as a comedy artist, he possesses a knack for weaving truly heartrending tales that should be acknowledged — a skill on full display on his latest opus.

## fashion streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Julianne Damer



**Farhia Aden**  
SCIENCE IV

**GATEWAY:** Describe what you're wearing.  
**FARHIA:** I'm wearing a black skirt with a red coat — the coat definitely makes me stick out. I'm wearing purple and white Converse shoes, which I got for half off. My mom got the scarf for me from the Middle East last summer.

**GATEWAY:** What's your favourite thing you have on?  
**FARHIA:** Definitely my coat, because it's bright red and it works with every outfit.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

# Fiennes triumphs from both sides of the camera



## FILM REVIEW

### **Coriolanus**

WHEN ➤ Runs until Sunday, March 18 at various times

WHERE ➤ Garneau Theatre (8712 109 St.)

WRITTEN BY ➤ William Shakespeare

ADAPTED BY ➤ John Logan

DIRECTED BY ➤ Ralph Fiennes

STARRING ➤ Ralph Fiennes, Vanessa Redgrave, Gerard Butler and Brian Cox

HOW MUCH ➤ \$8 admission

**Andrew Jeffrey**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

While adapting William Shakespeare's works to the present day seems like an intriguing idea, placing the classic dialogue in a modern setting can end up being painfully awkward. But Ralph Fiennes' *Coriolanus* avoids this fate with a talented cast, creating an urgent and thrilling adaptation of a Shakespearean story.

Fiennes brings Shakespeare's story to a modern war zone in "a place calling itself Rome." The plot remains largely unchanged, despite trimming much of the dialogue to fit the confines of a two-hour film. But the story holds up with relevant themes like the makings of a great leader, the conflict between personal gain and the good of others and the causes of popular discontent and uprising. The integration of new media, cell phones and modern war devices help move the plot forward and never seem forced.

The story follows Roman general Coriolanus (Fiennes), who after

fighting valiantly in a siege against a city held by the enemy Volscian people, returns to run for the high-ranking position of consul. But his disinterest in pleasing and pandering to the common people turns them against his rule. Coriolanus soon faces banishment from Rome, driving him to seek revenge against the city he once fought for. Against a modern military setting, the stakes of the conflict are raised, giving the movie a greater sense of drama.

*Coriolanus* has been marketed as an action-oriented war film, but it's important to keep in mind that this is Shakespeare, after all — there is more dramatic dialogue and deep moral conflict than action-filled war scenes. While the film contains an intensely violent battle in the first 30 minutes, it isn't matched for the remainder of the movie's run time. While it may not be what some were expecting, the discovery of a deeper film underneath the brutality is pleasant surprise.

Instead, it's the actors' treatment of Shakespeare's demanding script that carries the film to be a success. Coriolanus represents Fiennes' directorial debut, and his style is appropriately actor-oriented. Many of the shots linger on the players' faces, demanding constant emotional control. Placing himself in the lead role, Fiennes also does a good job of surrounding himself with a solid supporting cast, with Gerard Butler portraying Volscian general Aufidius and Brian Cox as the Roman senator Menenius. The main actors all deliver the Shakespearean dialogue naturally and believably, easily carrying the high drama of the epic tragedy.

But even amongst an impressive supporting cast, Fiennes' powerful

portrayal of Coriolanus and Vanessa Redgrave's towering performance as his mother Volumnia dominate the film. Fiennes goes beyond his already impressive acting capabilities to create a truly incredible portrait of the intensely angry Coriolanus — whether in the midst of battle or confronting anyone who questions him on the political scene. Even Butler, in his element in his own aggressive role, is dwarfed by the sheer venom and hatred oozing from Fiennes.

The film's only problems lie in the flaws of the original material. *Coriolanus* isn't one of Shakespeare's most acclaimed tragedies, and there are moments that its shortcomings are abundantly clear. Coriolanus as a character isn't nearly as complex as many of Shakespeare's other tragic heroes. While the film is built on his relationship with the common people and their disdain for each other, many of the criticisms he receives or problems he creates occasionally come off as trivial. The people, for instance, are insulted by the simple gesture of Coriolanus' refusal to show them his battle scars or his discomfort when receiving praise. Since this is perceived as mockery, it carries considerable influence in the call for his banishment. These problems could have easily been solved and Coriolanus' unwillingness to do so proves him to be a proud yet unsympathetic character.

But for his first effort, Fiennes proves to be quite talented in the director's chair. He brings out the best in an already talented cast and carries the film on his own when necessary. It's not the action-packed war thriller some might be expecting, but Fiennes' adaptation is a great portrayal of Shakespeare's story.

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# Puppetry of the prehistoric seeks origins of happiness

## THEATRE PREVIEW

### *Ignorance*

**WHEN** ▶ Runs Thursday, March 22 - Sunday, April 8 at 8 p.m., Sunday matinées at 2 p.m.

**WHERE** ▶ Roxy Theatre (10708 124 St.)

**WRITTEN BY** ▶ The Old Trout Puppet Workshop with anonymous contributors

**DIRECTED BY** ▶ The Old Trout Puppet Workshop

**STARRING** ▶ Peter Balkwill, Pityu Kenderes and Trevor Leigh

**HOW MUCH** ▶ Starting at \$29 at [attheroxy.com](http://attheroxy.com)

**Carole Yue**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

It seems humans today have lost the ability to be genuinely happy. Despite the overpowering presence of self-help methods promising life-changing effects, little seems to be different for the discontented masses. But perhaps our method has been all wrong — perhaps what needs to be done is to seek the cause of human unhappiness rather than its treatment.

This is the task Calgary's Old Trout Puppet Workshop takes on with their new production *Ignorance*, arriving at the Roxy Theatre later this month. Through the medium of puppetry, the play documents the evolution of human happiness, tracing society's discontent back to its roots and contrasting humanity's prehistoric ancestors with our current situation.

The undertaking sounds ambitious, but the aim of the play is not to provide answers so much as inspire people to start examining their lives differently.

"It's difficult to actually assume you know the right questions, but you throw the questions out there and ask, 'Are these the right questions?'" Peter Balkwill, Old Trout's co-artistic director, says. "And what does it mean when you meditate on these questions? What truly are the things that are going to fulfill us in our lives? Is it the pursuit of the idea of what happiness might be, or is it something else — something that goes beyond that?"

One of the questions the play poses is whether or not human happiness could, in fact, be linked to human ignorance.

"If we understood the fact that our basic needs have been met, we might actually relax a little bit and turn our attention to things other than, 'I just need that iPod,'" Balkwill muses.

But the difficulty, he says, lies in



the fact that when humans surpass the mundane animal in development, they're propelled by an insatiable appetite for something better, never content with what they already have.

Since the subject speaks to the human condition, it only follows that the play should bear as much human involvement as possible. Exploiting the scope and accessibility of the internet, Old Trout opened up the creative process to the public, inviting anyone with time and a reliable internet connection to be part of the development and contribute their own ideas for the play in any form.

"The more voices you get in on a process, the richer the end product," Balkwill says. "Of course, it does create a quagmire of opinions and ideas that you have to sift through, and that takes a great deal of effort and generosity and compassion. But in the end it just gives you so many different ways to regard the subject matter."

The open concept seems to defy theatrical conventions by revealing most of the plot details before opening night, but as Balkwill reasons, the advance knowledge of the play's content only serves to draw the audience in further. After all, people want to see how their ideas finally come to life onstage.

The use of puppets in conjunction

with difficult subject matter and mature content seems like an unusual pairing, but the members of Old Trout Workshop are devoted to this underappreciated medium.

"Puppets are curious creatures, and they imbue a great deal of investment from the observers," Balkwill explains. "With that investment come empathy and sympathy and all these things, and it can be quite visceral. So the puppets can drag you into observing an idea that human actors can't."

As *Ignorance* takes audiences back to a simpler — and maybe happier — time in humanity, the puppets themselves also reflect the effort to reach into the past. Created to look as if they've been unearthed from an archeological dig, the puppets also represent an investigation of the truth about human nature and happiness.

"The idea is that you are watching the first puppet show ever, that was performed in a cave by the cave people themselves," Balkwill says, noting the accessibility the puppets provide despite the play's complex concept.

"You definitely find that common human thread in all of us in a puppet. You can easily portray that out to the audience, and the audience sees and feels themselves in these situations."

But the hazy aura melts away with a gradual build-up of musical density and heavier guitar riffs as the album progresses. Whatever seemed to be held back before is let go in "Light Show," with a surge of energy filling in the gaps left behind at the beginning of the album. There's a subtle beauty in this transition that can be easily missed if its initial quiet vulnerability is overlooked.

It's clear that this album is a departure from the band's last two catchy pop releases. But dismissing *The End of That* as a simple reflection on growing up would discredit its allure. The album itself is a journey, and the hard work the band put into it deserves to be recognized.

### **Plants and Animals** *The End of That*

Secret City Records  
[plantsandanimals.ca](http://plantsandanimals.ca)

**Kate Black**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ BLAHBLAHBLACK

They've dropped the energetic vibe from their past albums, but Montreal's Plants and Animals have found a way to maintain a powerful impact on their audience. Pardon the cliché, but their third album, *The End of That* proves to be something of a new beginning.

*The End of That* opens with two

stripped-down tracks that hang off echoing folk-inspired melodies and tiptoe around existential crises. They're reminiscent of a drive down a long stretch of country road — the surroundings are pretty enough, but the lack of contrast in scenery leaves you searching for more.

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We're holding a contest devoted to finding the best short fiction and photography that students on this campus have to offer. This contest is open to any U of A student or anyone who isn't already a Gateway volunteer. Winners will have their entries published in the April 4 issue of the Gateway, and there'll even be some awesome prizes to be given away.

Deadline for entries is Wednesday, March 28 at 5 p.m.

Entries will be judged on both creativity and style by a panel of editors. Submissions must be original and must not have been published elsewhere. Please submit entries to [gateway@gateway.ulberta.ca](mailto:gateway@gateway.ulberta.ca) with the subject head "Gateway Literary Contest 2012" and the category you're entering. Please include your name, program, and year with your entry. Contestants may only enter each category once.

# Piano man Jeffery Straker, the singing storyteller

## MUSIC PREVIEW

### Jeffery Straker

WHEN ▶ Friday, March 16 at 6:45 p.m.  
WHERE ▶ McDougall United Church  
(10025 101 St.)  
HOW MUCH ▶ \$16.75 at ticketmaster.ca

**Alana Willerton**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ▶ @ALANAWILLERTON

Jeffery Straker is more than just a singer — at heart, he's a storyteller. A professional pianist whose music is a self-proclaimed mix of folk, pop and cabaret sounds, Straker punctuates his live performances with anecdotes from his life, striking a balance between the flamboyantly hilarious to the heartbreakingly honest.

"What works for me — and you can only figure this out by trial and error as a performer — but I banter with the audience between songs," Straker explains. "The banter allows me to be my animated and storytelling self, but it also allows me to transition between songs. Whether the song is forlorn, sad or up-tempo, I can separate the songs with their

Straker's latest album, *Under the Soles of My Shoes*, presents his most varied collection of songs and

sounds, straying from his usual up-tempo comfort zone into ballads and toned down numbers. While some of the songs on the album like "Gone" and "Brand New Ocean" maintain Straker's signature energetic sound, other songs tackle the album's overall theme of overcoming obstacles and picking yourself up in a much gentler way.

Citing romantic relationships and personal encounters with death as some of the inspiration behind the album's slower numbers, it's Straker's experiences with his great aunt, suffering from Alzheimer's, that really stand out.

Showcased in his song "Coat Hanger," Straker illustrates a visit he made to his great-aunt in her nursing home, singing, "I wish you could tell about the days / When you were young and carefree / Before the wrinkles and the grays. I don't know why I didn't ask you maybe just 10 years before / when it still bound up in volumes and the letters hadn't worn."

The quiet piano ballad has become a frequent request during Straker's live performances, which has a profound effect on the atmosphere of the show.

"When I tell the story at shows and then sing the song, it's a real moment in the show," Straker says. "People are kind of faced with their

own mortality in a way, since dementia and Alzheimer's and those types of things have become so common and touch almost everyone. I find it fascinating how people can find themselves in these songs."

Over the years, Straker has found himself being compared to many well known artists — Rufus Wainwright, k.d. lang, Elton John — but finds himself admiring artists whose own storytelling abilities factor into their performances as well.

"Someone I really look up to is Jann Arden," Straker says. "She can tell you the most hilarious story about a tampon and then sing the most heart-wrenching, sad break-up song. It's this roller coaster thing she does."

Straker's own ability to apply stories to his music strikes a chord with his audience, many of whom identify with the experiences behind his songs. He claims it's not uncommon for fans to reciprocate by sharing their own stories with him, and that being able to foster that interaction through his live performances is ultimately one of his purposes as a performer.

"My main thing is my live shows," Straker says. "I love performing and I love sharing my songs live. To me, all these songs translate really well on a live stage, and that is my main objective."



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# Sports

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**Volunteer**

Sports meetings Thursdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

## Hoop Bears nab silver in national championships

Daniel Ferguson's 25 points in gold medal game help lead the team to an under 10-point loss to Carleton University Ravens

**BASKETBALL REVIEW**

### Bears vs. Carleton

Sunday, March 11  
Halifax (CIS Naitonals)

**Justin Fauteux**

CUP SPORTS BUREAU CHIEF

HALIFAX (CUP) — The name plates on the W.P. McGee Trophy are starting to get a little repetitive.

For the second year in a row and the eighth time in the past 10 years, the Carleton Ravens claimed the trophy as the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) men's basketball champs. Sunday's title-winning victory — an 86-77 win over the Alberta Golden Bears — ties Carleton with the Victoria Vikes for the most national championships in CIS men's basketball history.

"I have two years left, and I want two more," said Carleton's Tyson Hinz.

"(The second-straight championship) feels great. This was our goal since the start of the season," added Ravens second-year standout Phil Scrubb, who was named the CIS player of the year on March 8. "All the guys made big plays today. It was a complete team effort. Tyson was awesome."

While Scrubb was the star of this season for the Ravens, it was Hinz — who just happens to be last year's CIS player of the year — that stole the show in the CIS final, shooting 8-13, racking up 20 points and game MVP

honours.

Scrub led the way for Carleton with a game-high 26 points, followed by Hinz's 20 and Willy Manigat, who had 14. Alberta's Daniel Ferguson wasn't far behind Scrubb, finishing with 25 points; however, as a team, Carleton dominated every statistical category.

The Ravens out-rebounded the Bears 38-29, outscored them 44-20 in points in the paint, shot 57.4 per cent from the field, compared to Alberta's 34.4, and scored on 40.9 per cent of their three-point attempts, while Alberta converted just 25 per cent.

"It was definitely our best all-around effort of the weekend," said Carleton head coach Dave Smart, who won his record fifth CIS coach of the year award. "We defended really well early on and it set the tone."

**“(Ferguson) makes my job very easy. He wants it so much, he sets the pace and everybody follows. He’s a phenomenal shooter.”**

GREG FRANCIS  
HEAD COACH BEARS BASKETBALL

The win also capped a second consecutive perfect season for the Ravens, who finished the 2011-12 campaign with a 34-0 record against CIS competition.

For the Bears, the March 11 game was their first trip to the national

title game since 2002 when they won their third CIS championship in school history with 76-71 over the Western Mustangs. Alberta blew out the Ryerson Rams 81-52 in their quarterfinal on March 9, before beating StFX X-Men 91-83 in the semifinal on March 10.

But even for the Canada West champion Bears, who only lost six games all year, the Ravens were just too much.

"It's a different thing scouting them on tape than playing them," said Alberta head coach Greg Francis. "Dave (Smart) has set the gold standard for CIS men's basketball programs. It's a great thing to chase after."

Ferguson's masterful 25-point performance will be his swan song as a Golden Bear concluded his CIS career on Sunday. Ferguson took home the game MVP award for Alberta and was named a tournament all-star.

"(Ferguson) makes my job very easy. He wants it so much, he sets the pace and everybody follows. He's a phenomenal shooter," said Francis of his graduating star after the Bears' semifinal win.

Edmonton natives Jordan Baker and Sahr Saffa were the Bears' second-leading scorers with 12 points apiece. Saffa joined Ferguson on the tournament all-star team.

Earlier in the day, the StFX X-Men took home the CIS bronze medal with an 89-86 win over the Fraser Valley Cascades. Also on Sunday, Acadia topped Ryerson 90-83 in overtime to take fifth place.

— With files from Canadian Interuniversity Sport.



Supplied/Nick Pearce (CLP)

## Green and Gold skip Bottcher hopes to add more gold to his mantle

**CURLING PREVIEW**

### Bears/Pandas @ Nationals

Wednesday to Sunday, March 14-18  
Brock University

**Atta Almasi**

SPORTS STAFF

If the Bears and Pandas rinks are to sweep away the competition at the 2012 CIS Curling Championship at Brock University this weekend, they'll have to be prepared to take on and defeat the country's most elite teams.

"That's a difficult question," said Bears and Pandas head coach Rob Krepps when asked who the stiffest competition would be.

"On the women's side it will probably be Wilfred Laurier, who are the defending champs and also won the OUA (Ontario) title a couple of weeks ago. On the men's side it's probably UPEI and Waterloo."

Krepps — who also coached Team Canada at the 2012 Karuizawa International Curling Championships in Japan in January — added that both the UPEI Panthers and the Waterloo Warriors have skips who have both won the Canadian junior national championships in

Brett Gallant and Jake Walker.

The road to nationals for the Pandas and Bears kicked off Feb. 17 at the Western Regionals Qualifiers which was hosted by the University of Manitoba. Led by skip Brendan Bottcher, the Golden Bears rink easily took care of their western Canadian competition by winning all five draws to finish with a perfect 5-0 record, automatically qualifying for nationals. The Pandas had similar success, raking up a second-place finish. Their only loss was against Manitoba, but both teams advanced to nationals.

With the Western Regionals Qualifiers tournament the sole opportunity for the Bears and Pandas to face fellow university level competition, Krepps and his rinks have kept busy by facing other tough competition.

"The main competition for our two teams is the Edmonton Super League, which finished two weeks ago," Krepps said. "Since then we've been arranging various exhibition bonspiels."

Two of these exhibition bonspiels took place on Saturday when the Golden Bears traveled to Beaumont to face off against Heather Strong and her rink while the Pandas found themselves in Stony Plain taking on the rink of Cathy

King. Both U of A rinks beat the Canadian curling legend skips.

Although Saturday's bonspiels were the final preparations before the team heads off to southern Ontario, one Golden Bear was not with his teammates in Beaumont on Saturday. Second-year skip and former provincial champion, Brendan Bottcher, was in Ostersund, Sweden curling with a few other Bears for Canada at the World Junior Men's Curling Championships.

After leading Canada to a top place finish in the standings after posting a respectable 8-1 record, Bottcher led his rink past Sweden 9-3 in the playoffs only to face them again in the championship game. After a 10-4 win, Bottcher finished his run with a gold medal — the country's first at the tournament since 2003. Krepps is excited to have the young skip on his side as the Bears go to nationals.

"It's amazing that (on the men's draw) you have three skips (Bottcher, Gallant and Walker) who are all former Canadian junior champions," said the coach.

Nationals kicks off Thursday with the list of participants and seedings yet to be finalized. Bottcher will join the team in Toronto before traveling to Brock University.



FILE PHOTO/AARON YEO

# Host hockey Pandas take fifth-place at nationals

## HOCKEY REVIEW

### Pandas @ Nationals

Thursday to Sunday, March 8-11  
Clare Drake Arena

**Andrew Jeffrey**  
SPORTS STAFF • @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

Despite hosting the 2012 CIS women's national hockey championship this past weekend, the Pandas weren't able to capitalize on their home ice advantage and finished fifth after playing in their second-straight consolation game.

Fifth-year goaltender Kanessa Shwetz made 19 saves in her final game as a Panda to shut out the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers and lead her team to a consolation victory on Sunday morning. The Pandas had been eliminated from medal contention the night before in a 4-2 loss to the eventual gold medal winners, the University of Calgary Dinos.

But head coach Howie Draper didn't feel that making drastic changes to the game in response to losing the night before would be the right move.

"There's always that feeling, that knee-jerk reaction that you have to change something," Draper explained. "For us, it's really just trying to do the things that we know can work and try to do them better. We have to alter things a little bit based on our competition and our opponent, but if you stick to what you do well and if you stick to your game plan, then I think ultimately your plan succeeds."

The major improvement for the

Pandas came from playing a more disciplined game. The Pandas were only penalized once after third-year forward Katie Stewart potted the winning goal 13 seconds into the second period, while UPEI's four penalties over the rest of the game killed any sense of momentum they had. This was a significant improvement for the U of A after three of four goals the night before by the U of C came on the powerplay.

The Pandas entered nationals as the Canada West runner ups to the U of C. With the crowd on their side in the school's first time hosting nationals, the pressure was on to finish well. But Draper felt his team didn't play to their full potential during the championship tournament.

"Some seemed like they hesitated a lot, like their anxiety was so high that they tried to do too much. You can't change the way you do things and try to take charge of a game when all you really have to do is stick to what you've learned," Draper said. "On the flip side, you can't be nervous to make a mistake. You've got to play the game to the best of your abilities and not worry too much about the outcome. I think maybe we were just too focused on the outcome, and it had a negative impact on our performance."

At the beginning of the season, Draper didn't expect the team to be a serious contender for the national championship even as hosts. But as the team progressed with a 14-3-7 record in their conference, he said he began to believe that a gold medal finish was entirely possible.

This team exceeded my ex-



NICK FROST

pectations. I really felt that if everything aligned the way it sometimes does, we could've won a championship," Draper said. "I wouldn't have guessed that at the start of the year, and I probably wouldn't have even been there until getting closer to Christmas. I just started to get the feeling that this team was coming together and that we've come a very long way."

Draper hopes the experience of playing at nationals will help many

of the young Pandas players mature and improve their game for next year. Many of the team's weaknesses were exposed in their loss to Calgary and their 4-0 loss on Friday to McGill.

Draper is focused on working on many of the team's key fundamentals such as discipline, offence and playing under pressure. The Pandas have a history of success at the national level with seven CIS championships in their history,

and Draper thinks the experience from the 2012 championships and improvement in those areas will be crucial to getting the Pandas back to that level of success.

"This will help us in the long run. It's a great experience for our younger girls, and I think ultimately I know it's a tough one for all of us, but it's going to help us get back here and hopefully win a championship within the next couple years."

## hockey recap

COMPILED BY Atta Almasi •  
Remi LeBlanc

### DINOS TAKE FIRST NATIONAL GOLD

As the only two teams left with no losses blemishing their tournament records, the Calgary Dinos and Montreal Carabins took the stage on the biggest podium in women's university hockey. They faced off for the CIS national championship on Sunday night.

The Dinos and Carabins entered the game with identical 2-0 records through round-robin play — the number three ranked Dinos with wins over McGill and host-team Alberta, and the sixth ranked Carabins with upsets over number one Laurier and number four UPEI — played toe-to-toe throughout the first period until Team Canada captain and legend Hayley Wickenheiser scored a short-handed goal with a little more

than four minutes remaining in the first to give Calgary a 1-0 edge over Montreal.

Wickenheiser was at it again a few minutes later, shooting another shot past Carabin netminder Rachel Oulette to extend the Dinos lead to two goals after the opening frame.

Coming out onto the ice re-energized, the Carabins outshot the Dinos 11-8 and got two more man advantages, but a tipped shot by Calgary forward Jenna Smith in the dying seconds of the second didn't help Montreal's cause as Calgary went up 3-0 going into the final period.

In the third period, the Dinos made it a four-goal lead early off a face-off win by Wickenheiser in the Carabins' end that was put past Oulette by Russian forward Iya Gavrilovain to make the score 4-0 Calgary. And even though Montreal made things interesting by scoring on a Dinos penalty off the stick of Elizabeth

Mantha, a fifth goal for Calgary by Elana Lovell four minutes after the Carabins' goal helped seal the deal. The Dinos went on to capture their first-ever CIS title, with Wickenheiser picking up player of the game with her four point performance.

While the win is a first for Calgary, it's Montreal's first time medaling at a national tournament since starting up a CIS program three years ago.

**MCGILL SHUTS OUTS TOP TEAM LAURIER**  
The McGill University Martlets shutout the top-seeded Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks 4-0 to win bronze at CIS nationals.

Outshooting the Hawks 26 to 23, the Martlets dominated the bronze medal match-up on Sunday. Although both teams were unable to score on the power play, their ability to kill penalties was exceptional. McGill defenceman Michelle Daigleault scored the first goal of the game, sneaking the



NICK FROST

puck in through the legs of Hawks netminder Erika Thunder.

The second goal, scored by forward Leslie Oles, continued McGill's attack on the Hawks in the second period.

Only a minute into the third period, McGill forward Ann-Sophie Bettez scored the third goal, beating Thunder over her blocker side.

Finally, with a beautiful tic-tac-toe play, forward Mélodie Daoust netted the fourth goal, catching Thunder off-guard once again over her blocker side.

It was a tough tournament for the top-seeded Hawks, going one for three and finishing fourth overall. The Martlets have won 12 medals at nationals, six of them bronze.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## Juggling two varsity sports is a dream come true for Wright

**Rebecca Medel**

SPORTS EDITOR

You'd never know from Smith Wright's track and field record that he taught himself how to throw while competing in shot put, weight throw and discus throw back in high school.

The third-year athlete just returned from CIS nationals last weekend — unfortunately not placing — but he took home the silver in shot put a couple weekends before at the Canada West championships.

Track and field head coach Georgette Reed hand-picked the Calgary athlete for her team after seeing him compete at provincials and take home gold in shot put and discus throw a few years earlier. After playing a year of junior ball with the Calgary Colts and participating in track and field at the U of C in 2008, Wright then became a full-fledged Golden Bear with both the track and field and football teams.

"I grew up with track and started with that, but then once I hit high school I fell in love with football."

"Being recruited for both is very cool. This is my dream," Wright said.

Because Wright's football off-season is his track and field season and vice versa, his body never gets a break from training. But after growing up in a family that encouraged lots of physical activity, he's used to it. Both his parents coached varsity volleyball at the Universities of Waterloo and Guelph.

"They're behind me all the way, and they've been pushing me to succeed with sports ever since I was young," Wright said.

Growing up playing lots of sports made Wright the kind of athlete who knows how push himself. He said he expected more from himself in the weight throw at the CanWest championship, but after placing fourth with a 15.04 metre throw, he gave his all to shot put and walked away with silver after throwing 14.98 metres.

"I love being active. I love competing. I guess that's why I do what I do. And the coaches are unbelievable, especially (Reed). She's been phenomenal for the three years

that I've been here. She's been a huge motivation and pushes me harder and harder each day."

After hurting his knee in a game against Calgary last fall, Wright sat out for most of the football season. That injury could have been detrimental to both of his sports, but he says he's made a complete recovery after seeking physiotherapy. And as much as an injury could keep him from both the sports he loves, the plus side to being a two-team varsity athlete is the ability to transfer of skills from one sport to the other.

"The power definitely correlates for both and the training supplements one another," Wright said about his training schedule.

He also doesn't want his athletic career to end when he graduates in two years, realizing some major choices lie ahead.

"I guess my ultimate dream is either CFL or Olympics, but to do both is completely impractical so I'll have to end up making a big life decision here in the next couple years."

"I'm stuck right in the middle."



MATT HIRI

### Track and Field Championship Review

The Golden Bears and Pandas took home four medals at CIS nationals in Winnipeg last weekend, one more than head coach Georgette Reed had predicted. Stephen McPhee took gold in long jump, Kathryn McCaffrey took silver in the 60 metre hurdles and Lindsey Bergevin took bronze in both pole vault and high jump. The Pandas finished seventh out of 21 teams and the Bears place 11th out of 22 teams.

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# Bears and Pandas clean up at tennis qualifiers

## TENNIS REVIEW

### Bears/Pandas @ Western Regionals

Friday to Sunday, March 9-11  
University of British Columbia

**Remi LeBlanc**

SPORTS WRITER

The Golden Bears and Pandas tennis team annihilated their competition this weekend to qualify for CIS nationals in August, and are hoping to medal for the third time in as many years.

The team was competing at the Western Regional Qualifier, a three-day round robin tournament with teams from the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University. Alberta showed their skill by downing UBC, Simon Fraser University and UVic by wide margins.

At CIS championships last year the Bears and Pandas took silver, losing to the Montréal Carabins seven matches to four. Failing to qualify for nationals in 2009, taking bronze in 2010 and clinching silver in 2011, the Bears and Pandas are trending to capture gold this year.

"I haven't seen a team like this. We mesh well, and it's an unreal team atmosphere on and off the court," said Bears player Marko Laschuk.

Except for his own three-set singles match against UVIC and three-set doubles match against SFU, playing the number one seed in both, Laschuk found the matches trouble-free. "We all played well. I wouldn't take anything back," Laschuk said after the tournament.



**WHAT THE DEUCE?** In his second year with the team, Marko Laschuk keeps pace with the best in Canada West. SUPPLIED

Head coach Russ Sluchinski was also pleased with the way his team took their wins.

"I never felt they were in trouble. Even the closer matches were still controlled by the Bears and Pandas," he said. "Both men and women served well and controlled play right from the serve. I think this is a large part to why we did so well this weekend. Historically, the tournament has been a very close one, but this year the Bears and Pandas dominated."

But one of the Pandas' top players, Erika Voaklander, also said

the matches weren't all smooth sailing.

"When I played the number-two girl from UBC in singles, it was a rather difficult match. She played at number two, but most of our team agrees that she was the best singles player on their team. I didn't play very well, but competed and somehow pulled it out 6-4 and 7-6, (even after being) down 5-2 in the second."

Voaklander said she feels the team is in good shape for competing at nationals in August.

"I think all of us have played competitively longer than most of the other teams," she said. "Our team is a very good serving team and I think it's one of our evident advantages. Plus, we have a really strong unit which helps a lot."

"Overall, the matches were close but the team was well-prepared," Sluchinski added. "We have good players, and so with situations that get down to the wire they are able to pull through."

The Bears and Pandas perseverance, talent, and consistent level of

play ultimately merited their ticket to nationals. And with years of competitive experience and multitudes of individual titles, including at the provincial and national levels, the Bears and Pandas are ready to take on whatever Montreal has to offer.

"We will be putting strategies together to go to Montreal in August and continue training throughout the summer," Sluchinski said. "We have the last two years as experience to show us how to prepare. The players are very motivated."

**It's not too late! You can book Access Fund appointments until Wednesday, March 21st.**

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# Seats

## A look at classroom seating around campus

words by Simon Yackulic, photos by AmirAli Sharifi

**T**hey're the figurative backbone of the learning experience — the seats you sit in every day as you absorb information in classes. But what happens when those seats aren't as comfortable as they can be, or worse, are downright detrimental to your health?

Naturally, for an institution that has been around for more than 100 years, the University of Alberta has a variety of seating setups on campus, from long desks with multiple chairs to single seats with attached writing surfaces. According to Alan Mar, a master's student in the University of Alberta's Rehabilitation Medicine program, poor seating can be detrimental to one's study habits.

"Think about how much more productive you are when you're in a comfortable, 'just right' state, the most comfortable state you can be in. Conversely, think about when you aren't comfortable or you don't have enough space, and you have to fidget constantly and rearrange things," Mar said.

Through student placements and volunteer work with the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Mar has worked with people who have had injuries and need to be extra aware of their seating, such as those affected by spinal cord injury, stroke or degenerative neuro-muscular disease, reduced ability to reposition their body while seated.

Rehabilitation medicine has exposed Mar to the value of different types of seating. In particular, he is a big advocate of the role of cushioned seating, which can provide both comfort and pressure support.

For his clients, seating and positioning are major issues. When sitting for a long time, he's seen patients develop deformities or open sores. The cushion helps to alleviate that pressure, especially on hips and tailbones.

"The cushion in the rehab world is to prevent (open sore development) from happening. For students, in an ideal world where funding was not an issue, you would hopefully have cushioned surfaces for most study spaces."

According to Mar, the cumulative effects of sitting "hunched over writing and reading in an unnatural position" can build up over time, leading to

spinal issues. He said that this can be counteracted by promoting comfortable seating, as well as maintaining a good level of physical fitness.

"People adopt a lot of maladaptive seating positions, slouching and what-not, which they adopt simply because they're uncomfortable," Mar said.

Maintaining good mobility and stretching are important, as is exercising and staying in good shape. If you're going to be sitting for six to eight hours at a time, according to Mar, "your body needs to move."

Keith Hollands, the University of Alberta's associate director of Design and Tech Services, said classroom seating is determined largely by the academic plan. Hollands explained the structure behind getting chairs into new classrooms.

"The Academic Plan is going to imply what types of classes are going to be taught, and the faculties are going to identify the type of teaching they need to do," Hollands said. "Everything pretty much comes back to the academics saying 'this is how we want to teach' to the Registrar saying 'these are the types of classrooms' and then Facilities and Operations has to answer to that to be able to find those classrooms."

After it has been decided what classrooms are going to be developed, it falls to Facilities and Operations to ensure those classrooms are filled. Hollands noted that a large group of stakeholders were consulted on the recent batch of new seating in buildings like CCIS or ECHA, a process that he would like to continue in the future with student input.

"Back in 2004, we knew there was going to be some construction happening, so we went to the marketplace and found a chair provider. And we have an agreement with a single chair provider, and we identified at that time the qualities we wanted out of those chairs, with input from a committee of Facilities and Operations, the

university architect, the Registrar's office and the faculties," Hollands explained.

"They went through, made a selection, and then for all these capital projects we said here's the vendor, here's the chairs we've got, work with that going into these spaces. And that is really why we have the chairs that we have in the new facilities."

The U of A has 333 classrooms, and they aren't all made equally. But how do they stack up against each other?

Mar went on a tour of campus to evaluate some of the newer seating and saw how it stacked up against historic seats in older classrooms. He visited four classrooms of different types and sizes to look at the contrasts in seating styles that students are presented with on campus everyday.



## Tory 1-129

This classroom is smaller and jammed full of moveable desks that were roughly assembled into rows. Mar was critical of how this inhibited free movement in the classroom.

"Access to this classroom is rather difficult, mostly because you don't have structured entry and exit points, especially for people in wheelchairs that can't use the seats themselves. In some ways, having a structured environment where you are able to have set entry and exit points makes it easier for you to promote more conducive behavior for movement," Mar said.

He also said the desks themselves seemed to be designed for an 'average' individual, which could cause problems for the many students who fall outside of that range.

"The attached (writing) surface isn't half bad for my height, though it causes problems if you're left handed since they're mostly right-handed desks. The table size really constrains you. It doesn't really provide students a lot of real estate for learning."

As for the seats themselves, Mar noted that they lacked cushioning or anything that would allow students to sit in them for long periods of time.

"When you're seated, you want to be positioned at about 90 degrees, an ideal position for allowing your body to handle all the stresses," Mar said.

"Now it's being thought that giving your body the ability to be a little bit more flexible in terms of position is even better for handling stress. Sitting in this position in these chairs for too long does put a lot of pressure on your hip bones."



## CCIS L1 – 140

Next up, Mar visited a CCIS lecture hall, one of the newest buildings on campus. Large table-like desks are lined with moveable chairs, giving the room an open feel and contrasting the tight, cluttered feel of the Tory classroom.

Mar felt that the lecture hall was much better in terms of accessibility, with areas that people in wheelchairs could readily access, and that its free form could be good for productivity.

The long, open tables also give students a chance to spread out without having to worry about cramming books under their chairs. While the seats don't look too fancy, Mar approved of their curves.

"In terms of seating, these seats are actually a little bit better in terms of how the seating back is actually curved, which takes on the natural shape of the human back, which is curved. When you sit at a proper, 90 degree angle, these seats actually accommodate your back."

While he gave accolades to the room's free design, he was still critical of the lack of seat cushions.

"Again, there's no cushion, so sitting for a long period of time isn't going to be comfortable. I don't know if you've thought about it, but you rarely sit in the same position for over an hour. It's rare, because your body just can't take the force of sitting in the same position for that amount of time."



## Dentistry/Pharmacy 2104

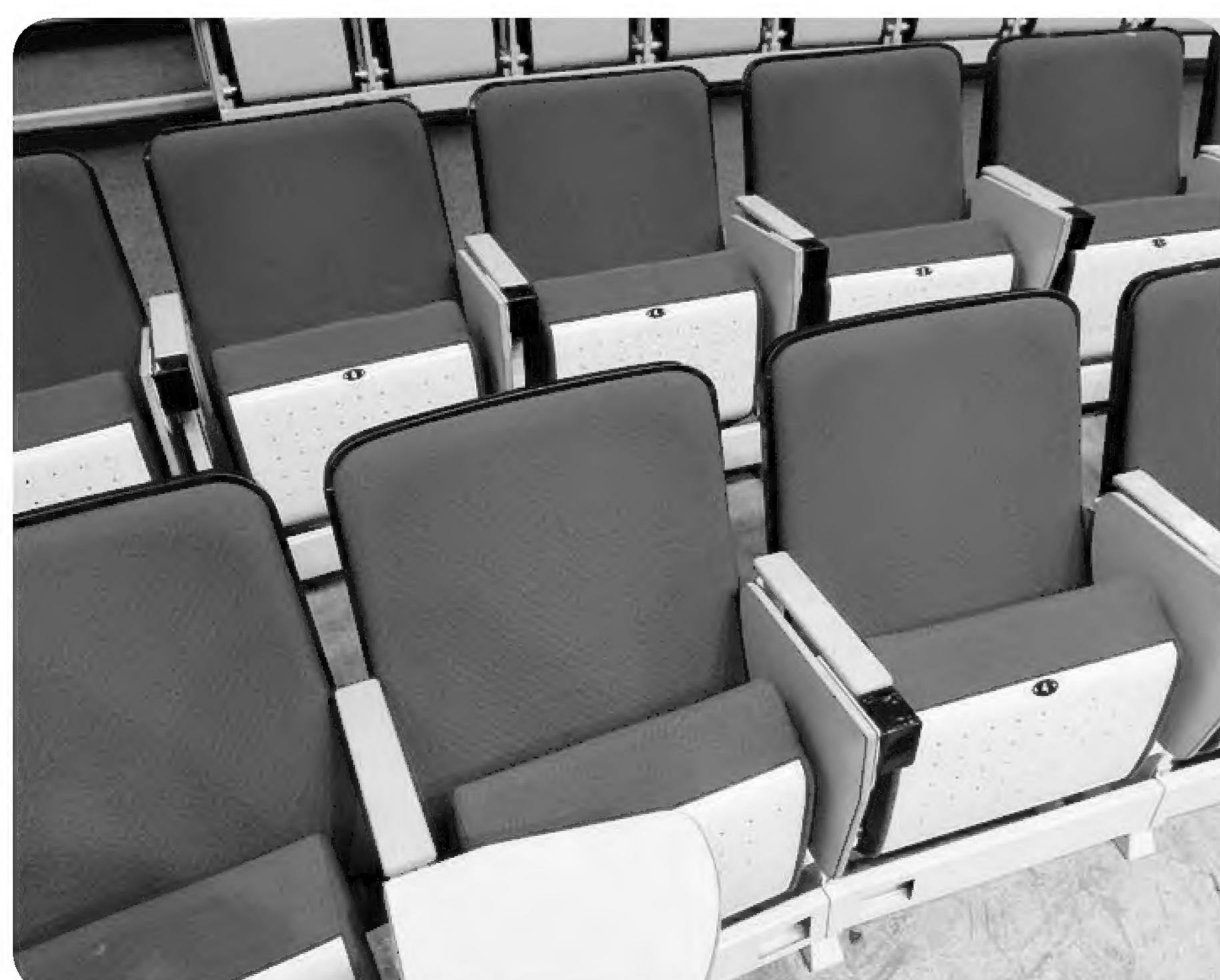
This Dentistry/Pharmacy Building theatre has steep rows of fixed seats, rising up from the lecture podium like an auditorium. Mar said the classroom is a better environment than the Tory classroom, but still with some glaring flaws that could pose problems during a lecture.

"This is definitely a more accommodating environment than Tory 1-129, which is pretty restrictive in not having a designated area to walk through," Mar said, noting that the narrow corridors in 2104 were less optimal than in CCIS, but still allowed movement.

"I think it'd be difficult as a student to maintain a consistent level of focus if you're in that sort of environment, versus an area where there is a direct flow of traffic, which allows people to come and go as they please, if they have to go to the bathroom or whatever. And this is why CCIS does have those corridors, that allow for people to make that choice."

As for the chairs and desks themselves, Mar wasn't that enthusiastic in his praise.

"I'm sitting down and already I need to take up two spaces. The seats are very narrow and don't allow for students to spread out. If this theatre was packed you're probably rubbing elbows with everyone. As for the seats, it's 90 degrees, non-cushioned. There isn't much real estate for a writing surface — I can see people taking up two desks just so that they can spread out everything they need."



## Telus Centre 150

In the Telus Centre, Mar finally found the fabled cushioned seats of one of the university's newer classrooms. A large lecture theatre with a modern design hosts many large first-year classes with theatre-style seats that fold up when you stand up.

Mar was happy to finally evaluate a classroom where the chairs were properly cushioned. However, he noted that the room seemed to balance out the benefit of having cushions with other detrimental features.

"The backs are fixed, which isn't great for back support," Mar said, noting that the minor contour in the chairs was okay for back support, but not great.

Mar also said that the swinging quality of the seats allows students to reposition easier to reallocate pressure during long lectures, but he felt that the cushionless CCIS lecture theatre at least beat Telus 150 in terms of workspace.

"In CCIS, you can create that workspace.

Here, people are right next to you, and it's hard to have everything you need in order to be productive," Mar said.

He noted that the newer classrooms were making solid attempts at providing students with a comfortable and productive learning environment, even if many classrooms still have problematic seating.

"Compare CCIS to Tory, and you're seeing that developers of classrooms are moving towards allowing students to be more free in terms of space, how they sit, and room for sitting, while also allowing them more freedom in terms of spreading out what they need (for) being most productive in a lecture room," Mar said.

"It is only the last 10 years where people have started bringing laptops — with the old desks, that might have been enough room when people were only bringing their notepad and a pen."

# Diversions

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Volunteer

Comics meetings Mondays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

## COMICS

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THE ADVENTURES OF RORY TIGHE by Gateway Staff

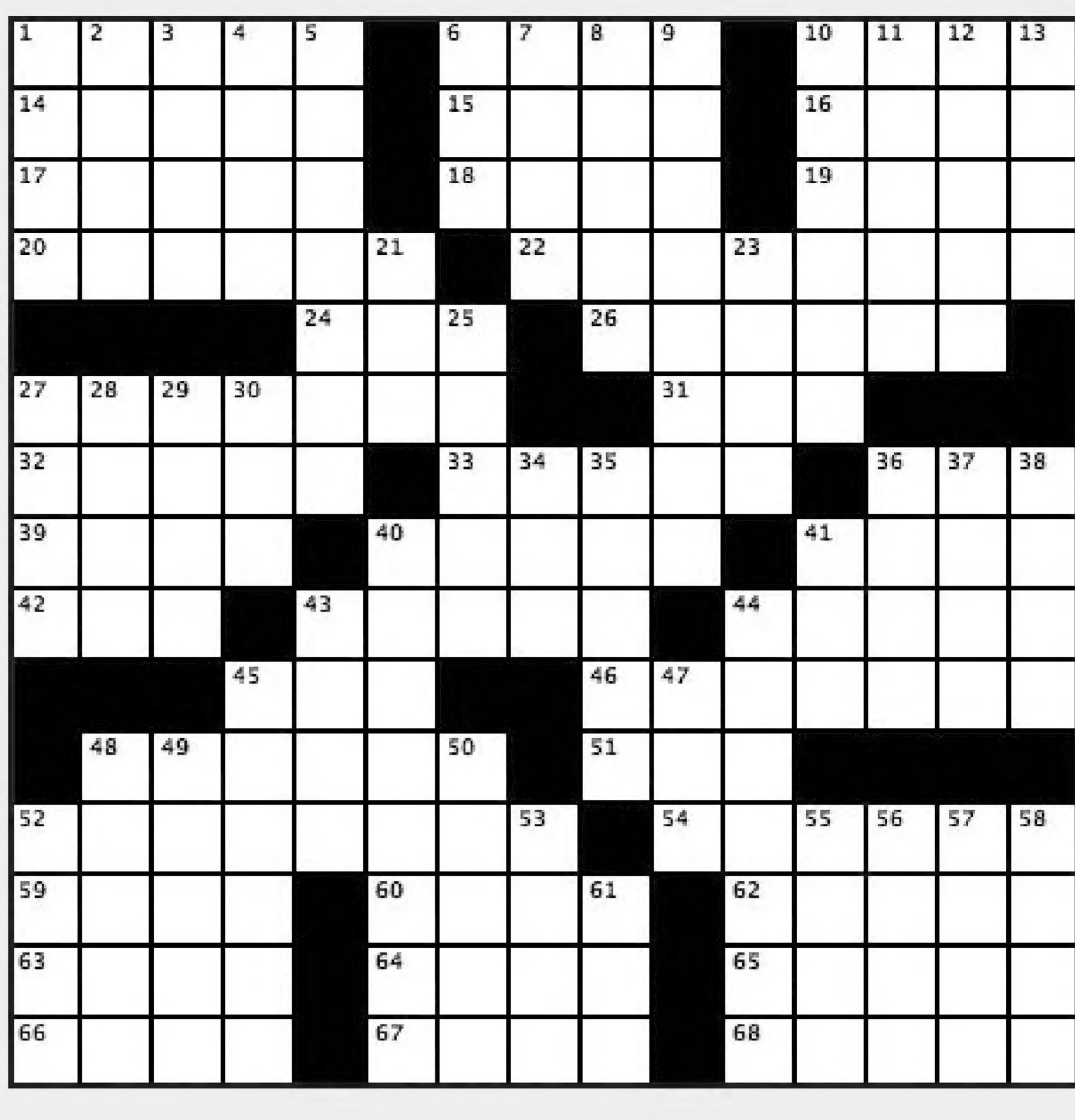


# CROSSWORD

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**Across**

1. Averages
6. Barbershop request
10. Thick slice
14. Good point
15. \_\_\_ extra cost
16. Hawaiian city
17. Blank look
18. Cancun coin
19. Drum sound
20. Chat
22. Guard
24. Periodical, briefly
26. Tiny
27. Bribe
31. Jabber
32. Earlier
33. Alternate
36. RR stop
39. Ethereal: Prefix
40. Syrian leader
41. Drop
42. After taxes
43. Ascended
44. Pueblo Indian village
45. Belonging to us
46. Wounded
48. To bargain
51. \_\_\_ Paulo
52. Chief Indian officer
54. Underground electric railroad
59. Bunches
60. Yours, in Tours
62. Metal spikes
63. Adhesive
64. Make-up artist?
65. Pang
66. Chow
67. Ages and ages
68. Guide
1. Not fem.
2. This, in Tijuana
3. Slippery \_\_\_ eel
4. Soft ball brand
5. Vegetable appliance
6. Faucet
7. Numbered rds.
8. Atlas feature
9. Wide-eyed
10. Contract
11. Big cats
12. Kind of cat
13. Cotton seed pod
21. Bleat of a sheep
23. Drop of water expelled by the eye
25. Vulgar
27. Bridge
28. Algonquian language
29. "Java" trumpeter
30. Miss Piggy's query
34. Half a fly
35. Clock pointers
36. Problem with L.A.
37. Duration
38. Not much
40. Large terrier
41. South American tuber
43. Batting Babe
44. Quantities
45. Speaks publicly
47. Small batteries
48. Papal seal
49. Circa
50. Rate
52. Wise
53. Horse color
55. Monetary unit of Thailand
56. Metal filament
57. Burn balm
58. Belgian river
61. Apr. addressee



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